This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

+ *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.

+ *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.

+ *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.

+ *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at `http://books.google.com/`

3 3433 07594947 3

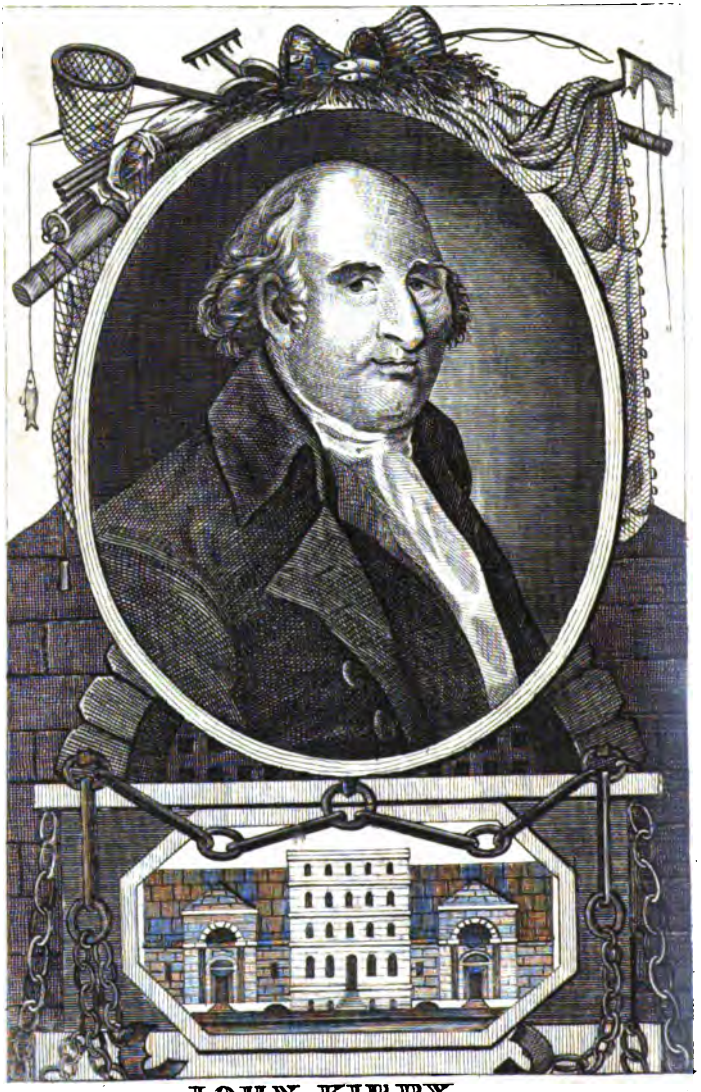
NOTTINGHAMIANA
E LIBRIS
PERCY J
&
ALICE G
CROPPER
Nottingham.

(Criminal)

SLG

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY

ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.



JOHN KIRBY.
late Keeper of Newgate.
Published by R. Dowson, Nottingham.

THE

CRIMINAL RECORDER:

OR,

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

OF

NOTORIOUS PUBLIC CHARACTERS;

INCLUDING

Murderers,	Incendiaries,	Highwaymen,	Housebreakers,
Traitors,	Defrauders,	Footpads,	Coiners,
Pirates,	Rioters,	Pickpockets,	Receivers,
Mutineers,	Sharpers,	Swindlers,	Extortioners,

AND OTHER NOTED PERSONS,

WHO HAVE SUFFERED THE SENTENCE OF THE LAW FOR

CRIMINAL OFFENCES.

Embracing a variety of

CURIOUS AND SINGULAR CASES, ANECDOTES, &c.

WITH OCCASIONAL NOTES,

ILLUSTRATED WITH ELEGANT ENGRAVINGS,

BY THE FIRST ARTISTS.

IN TWO VOLUMES,

VOL. 1.

NOTTINGHAM:

PRINTED AND SOLD BY R. DOWSON, MARKET-PLACE.

1815.

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY
ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.
1901.

3843-4

PREFACE.

THE following authentic accounts of remarkable Culprits are respectfully submitted to the Public with the view of being *doubly* serviceable; First, by being a warning to youth; who, seriously considering the fatal end of vice, as almost every page in this work records, may early imbibe a due abhorrence of its deformity, and learn by times to shun its dangerous path. We are told that a young man was happily reclaimed by the representation of the play of "George Barnwell," it is not therefore improbable but the *scenes* of depravity which these volumes disclose may have an equal impression.——Secondly, by being a useful book of reference, with respect to extraordinary cases: consequently, it is presumed, the CRIMINAL RECORDER will not be unworthy the library of all classes. We have had, it is true, many voluminous works of this nature: but they have been, one and all, tedious details of every malefactor, and consequently repetitions of the same cases; calculated more to *disgust*, than either interest or instruct the reader. The following, however, is a collection of the most extraordinary Characters in the UNITED KINGDOM who have suffered Death, Transportation, &c. for their

various offences; including others which have been attended with remarkable verdicts, &c.

The embellishments which accompany several of our narratives are taken from some interesting scene transacted by the Criminal, and will, we trust, be a further recommendation, as they are executed in a style *far superior* to any yet given in a similar work.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES,

&c. &c.

WILLIAM ANDREW HORNE, ESQ.

MURDERER.

Executed at Nottingham, December 11th, 1769.

THIS malefactor was the son of a gentleman of fortune, at Butterley in Derbyshire, at which place he was born in the year 1685.

His father, who was distinguished by his classical knowledge, endeavoured to teach the son Latin and Greek; but wanting a disposition to learn, he never made any considerable progress. The father allowed him the use of his hounds, and furnished him with a horse and gun.

Horne took delight in the sports of the field: but there were other pleasures to which he was, at least, equally attached. His passion for women was unbounded; nor was it equalled by any other, but a most singular degree of avarice, which distinguished him throughout the whole course of his life.

He seduced several girls, two of whom were servants to his mother, and one was the daughter of a farmer, which

latter died in consequence of her grief. By one woman he had two natural daughters, one of whom lived to the age of fifteen years, and the other was living in 1759, and might have been reputably married, but that the avaricious father refused to give her a shilling as a fortune.

He had likewise criminal connexions with his own sister; which leads us to speak of the crime for which he suffered. This sister being delivered of a boy in February 1724, Horne told his brother Charles, three days afterwards, and at ten o'clock at night, that he must take a ride with him. He then put the new-born infant in a bag, and mounting their horses, they rode to Annesley in Nottinghamshire, at the distance of five computed miles, carrying the child alternately.

On their arrival near the village, William dismounted, and inquired if the child was living, and being answered in the affirmative, he took it, and told his brother to wait till he came back. On his return, Charles demanded to know how he had disposed of the infant; to which he said, that he had placed it behind a hay-stack, and covered it with hay.

After William Horne was in custody, his account of this transaction was to the following effect. He said he had no design of destroying the infant; but put it in a bag lined with wool, and made a hole in the bag, that it might not be stifled. He added, that the child was handsomely dressed, and he had intended to have left it at the door of Mr. Chaworth, of Annesley; but the dogs barking, and there being a light in the house, he desisted from his first intention, in the fear of a discovery.

After some hesitation, he said, he resolved to place it under a warm hay-stack, in the hope that, when the servants came to fodder the cattle in the morning, it would be found. Such was his account of the matter; and on the following morning the child was found, but dead, through the severity of the weather. How this affair came to be kept secret for such a number of years, will hereafter appear.

In a short time after the transaction, a quarrel happened between the brothers; in consequence of which Charles communicated the affair to his father, who enjoined him to the strictest secrecy; which was observed till the death of the old gentleman, who departed this life, aged 102 years, in the year 1747.

William having always behaved with great severity to his brother Charles, and the latter, (soon after the death of the father) having some business to transact with Mr. Cook, an attorney, at Derby, told him of the long-concealed affair, and asked his advice. The lawyer told him to go to a justice of the peace, and make a full discovery of the whole transaction.

Hereupon Charles went to a magistrate, and acquainted him with what had happened: but he hesitated to take cognizance of it; said it might hang half the family; and that as it had passed so many years ago, advised that it might remain a secret.*

In consequence hereof no farther notice was taken of it till the year 1754, when Charles Horne being seized with a violent fit of illness, called in the assistance of one Mr. White, of Ripley; and presuming that he should live but a short time, said he could not die in peace without disclosing his mind. When Mr. White had heard the tale, he declined giving any advice, saying, it was not proper for him to interfere in the affair.

Charles recovered his health in a surprising manner; and Mr. White, who saw him again in a few days after, expressing his astonishment at so speedy a recovery, the other said, "He had been better ever since he had disclosed his "mind to him."

A considerable time after this, William Horne had a quarrel with a Mr. Roe, at a public-house, concerning the

---

* This was strange advice to be given by a justice of the peace. The date of a crime does not lessen its enormity; and it is the duty of a magistrate to receive every information that may tend to the advancement of justice, and the punishment of vice.

right of killing game; when Roe called Horne an "incestuous old dog." Hereupon Horne prosecuted him in the ecclesiastical court at Litchfield, where Roe was cast, and obliged to pay all expenses.

This circumstance inflamed Roe with revenge, and having learnt that Charles Horne had mentioned something of his brother having caused his natural child to be starved to death, he made such inquiry of Charles as determined him how to act.

Hereupon he went to a magistrate in Derbyshire and obtained a warrant, but took Charles's word for his appearance on the following day. William hearing that such warrant was granted, and being apprehensive that his brother might be admitted evidence, he sent for him, and told him that he would be his friend if he would deny all that he had said. This the other refused: but told him, that if he would give him five pounds, he would go immediately to Liverpool, and quit the kingdom: but William's excessive avarice prevented his complying with this moderate request.

Charles being examined by some magistrates in Derbyshire, they declined interfering in the business: on which a justice of the peace in Nottinghamshire was applied to, who issued a warrant for taking William Andrew Horne, Esq. into custody; and this warrant was backed by Sir John Every, a magistrate of Derbyshire.

A constable from Annesley went with Mr. Roe, and some other assistants, to Mr. Horne's house, about eight in the evening; but could not obtain admittance; on which the constable left Roe and another to watch, that the party should not escape, and returned in the morning, when a servant told them his master was gone out; but Roe and his companion insisted that he had not escaped in the night, they were at length admitted, after having threatened to burst the door.

They now diligently searched the house, but could not find the party they wanted; and would probably have desisted, but that Roe insisted on making another search,

during which they observed a large old chest, and Mrs. Horne being asked what it contained, said, "it was full of "sheets and table linen." Roe declared he would look into it, and was on the point of breaking it open, when Mrs. Horne unlocked it, and her husband suddenly started up, saying, "It is a sad thing to hang me; for my brother "Charles is as bad as myself, and he cannot hang me "without hanging himself.

Hereupon he was taken into custody, and being carried before two justices of the peace, in Nottinghamshire, they committed him to take his trial at the following assizes.

He had not been long in confinement, when he applied to the court of King's Bench for a writ of Habeas Corpus; which being granted, he was brought to London, and his counsel argued that he ought to be admitted to bail; but the judges were of a different opinion, and he was remanded to the gaol of Nottingham.

On the 10th of August, 1759, he was brought to trial before lord chief baron Parker; and, after a hearing of about nine hours, the jury found him guilty, and sentence of death was passed of course.

Though so many years had passed since the transaction, the persons who found the child were yet living: and their testimony corroborated that of his brother Charles, led to the conviction above mentioned.

Horne being convicted on a Saturday, was sentenced to die on the Monday following: but a number of gentlemen waited on the judge, intimating that Horne had been so long hardened in iniquity, that a farther time would be necessary to prepare him for his awful change; in consequence of which a respite of a month was granted him.

When this time was nearly expired, he received a reprieve during his majesty's pleasure; so that he began to entertain hope of a free pardon. He employed the greater part of his time in writing to people that he thought might have interest to save him. He seemed little affected by the enormity of his crime, and frequently said, "it was d——d

" hard to suffer on the evidence of a brother, for a crime " committed so many years before."

It was generally reported that he had committed a number of other atrocious crimes, most of which he denied; and said to an acquaintance, "My brother Charles was " tried at Derby about twenty years ago, and acquitted; " my dear sister Nancy perjuring herself at the same time " to save his life, which you see was preserved to hang me."

He acknowledged to a clergyman who assisted him in his devotions, that he forgave all his enemies, even his brother Charles; but made the following strange addition to his speech, that if at the day of judgment, "God Almighty " should ask him how his brother behaved, he would not " give him a good character."

It happened that on the day appointed for his execution he had just completed his 74th year; and having always been accustomed to have a plum-pudding on his birth-day, he would have continued that custom if he had received another reprieve.

This singular offender was executed at Nottingham, on the 11th of December, 1759.

It may now be proper to mention such farther particulars of him as may be worthy of transmitting to posterity, by way of information or example. His father left him all his real estate, having before assigned the whole of his personal, by deed of gift, to his other son. The father died in the kitchen, when he had twelve guineas in his pocket, which were the undoubted property of Charles, as being a part of his personal effects; but William took them out of the father's pocket, nor would promise to return them till Charles engaged to pay the expense of the funeral: but when he afterwards asked for the money, William turned him out of the house.

Soon afterwards Charles was in great distress, and, having a family, his children used to go begging bread at their uncle's door; but their petitions and persons were rejected with equal scorn.

The distinguishing marks of this man's character were avarice and brutality. He was severe beyond expression on any unqualified person, who kept a sporting dog, or made use of a gun. Charles kept a public-house at a gate leading to his brother's house; and would frequently hold open the gate, and stand humbly with his hat in his hand, while the lordly 'squire rode by without deigning to take notice of him.

Such is the account we have of William Andrew Horne; a man who, by his situation in life, might have lived a credit to himself, and a blessing to his neighbours, instead of being wretched in his own mind, and a terror to all about him.

There is no story in our volumes that affords a more admirable lesson against avarice than the present. If this malefactor had not grudged the paltry sum of five pounds, his brother, who was the only material evidence against him, would have quitted the kingdom, and he would at least have had time to repent of his misdeeds, and have died in a manner less disgraceful than at the gallows.

Hence, however, we ought to admire the wisdom of that providence, which, to answer its own great and important ends, and to set an example to the world, may make a guilty man blind to his obvious safety, and instruct the miser to be penurious to his own ruin.

'Tis remarkable that St. Andrew, Oldstyle, namely, 11th of December, was not only his Birth-day, and that of his Execution, but also his Wedding-day, and that of part of his Christian Name, he being called William *Andrew* Horne.

JOHN SHEPPARD.

HOUSEBREAKER.

Executed at Tyburn, November 16th, 1724.

THE case of this malefactor having been more the subject of public conversation than that of almost any one who ever underwent the sentence of the law, and his adventures being in themselves very remarkable, we shall be the more particular in our account of him.

John Sheppard was born in Spital-fields in the year 1702. His father, who was a carpenter, bore the character of an honest man; yet he had another son named Thomas, who, as well as Jack, turned out a thief.

The father dying while the boys were very young, they were left to the care of the mother, who placed Jack at a school in Bishopsgate-street, where he remained two years, and was then put apprentice to a cane-chair-maker in Houndsditch. His master dying when he had been only a short time with him, he was placed with another person of the same trade: but here he was so ill-treated that he remained only a short time, when he was taken into the protection of Mr. Kneebone, a woollen-draper in the Strand, who had some knowledge of his father. At length Mr. Kneebone put him apprentice to a carpenter in Wych-street.

He behaved with decency in this place for about four years, when frequenting the Black Lion alehouse in Drury-Lane, he became acquainted with some abandoned women, among whom the principal was Elizabeth Lyon, otherwise called Edgworth Bess, from the town of Edgworth, where she was born.

JACK SHEPPARD.

(p. 12.)

While he continued to work as a carpenter he often committed robberies in the houses where he was employed, stealing tankards, spoons, and other articles, which he carried to Edgworth Bess; but not being suspected of having committed these robberies, he at length resolved to commence house-breaker.

Exclusive of Edgworth Bess he was acquainted with a woman named Maggot, who persuaded him to rob the house of Mr. Bains, a piece-broker in White Horse Yard; and Jack having brought away a piece of fustian from thence, which he deposited in his trunk) went afterwards at midnight, and taking the bars out of the cellar-window, entered, and stole goods and money to the amount of twenty-two pounds, which he carried to Maggot.

As Sheppard did not go home that night, nor the following day, his master suspected that he had made bad connections, and searching his trunk, found the piece of fustian that had been stolen; but Sheppard, hearing of this, broke open his master's house in the night, and carried off the fustian, lest it should be brought in evidence against him.

Sheppard's master sending intelligence to Mr. Bains of what had happened, the latter looked over his goods, and missing such a piece of fustian as had been described to him, suspected that Sheppard must have been the robber, and determined to have him taken into custody; but Jack, hearing of the affair, went to him, and threatened a prosecution for scandal, alledging that he had received the piece of fustian from his mother, who bought it for him in Spitalfields. The mother, with a view to screen her son, declared that what he had asserted was true, though she could not point out the place where she had made the purchase. Though this story was not credited, Mr. Bains did not take any farther steps in the affair.

Sheppard's master seemed willing to think well of him, and he continued some time longer in the family; but after associating himself with the worst of company, and frequently staying out the whole night, his master and he

quarrelled, and the headstrong youth totally absconded in the last year of his apprenticeship, and became connected with a set of villains of Jonathan Wild's gang.

Jack now worked as a journeyman carpenter, with a view to the easier commission of robbery; and being employed to assist in repairing the house of a gentleman in May-Fair, he took an opportunity of carrying off a sum of money, a quantity of plate, some gold rings, and four suits of clothes.

Not long after this Edgworth Bess was apprehended, and lodged in the Round-house of the parish of St. Giles, where Sheppard went to visit her, and the beadle refusing to admit him, he knocked him down, broke open the door, and carried her off in triumph; an exploit which acquired him a high degree of credit with the women of abandoned character.

In the month of August, 1723, Thomas Sheppard, the brother of Jack, was indicted at the Old Bailey, for two petty offences, and being convicted, was burnt in the hand. Soon after his discharge, he prevailed on Jack to lend him forty shillings, and take him as a partner in his robberies. The first fact they committed in concert was the robbing a public-house in Southwark, whence they carried off some money, and wearing apparel: but Jack permitted his brother to reap the whole advantage of this booty.

Not long after this, the brothers, in conjunction with Edgworth Bess, broke open the shop of Mrs. Cook, a linen-draper in Clare-market, and carried off goods to the value of fifty-five pounds; and in less than a fortnight afterwards stole some articles from the house of Mr. Philips, in Drury-Lane.

Tom Sheppard going to sell some of the goods stolen at Mrs. Cook's, was apprehended and committed to Newgate, when, in the hope of being admitted an evidence, he impeached his brother and Edgworth Bess, but they were sought for in vain.

At length James Sikes, otherwise called Hell and Fury, one of Sheppard's companions, meeting with him in St. Giles's, enticed him into a public-house, in the hope of receiving a reward for apprehending him; and while they were drinking, Sikes sent for a constable, who took Jack into custody, and carried him before a magistrate, who, after a short examination, sent him to St. Giles's Round-house: but he broke through the roof of that place, and made his escape in the night.

Within a short time after this, as Sheppard and an associate, named Benson, were crossing Leicester-fields, the latter endeavoured to pick a gentleman's pocket of his watch, but failing in the attempt, the gentleman called out, "A pickpocket," on which Sheppard was taken, and lodged in St. Anne's Round-house, where he was visited by Edgworth Bess, who was detained on suspicion of being one of his accomplices.

On the following day they were carried before a magistrate, and some persons appearing who charged them with felonies, they were committed to New-Prison; and as they passed for husband and wife, they were permitted to lodge together in a room known by the name of Newgate-Ward.

Sheppard being visited by several of his acquaintance, some of them furnished him with implements to make his escape, and early in the morning, a few days after his commitment, he filed off his fetters, and having made a hole in the wall, he took an iron bar and a wooden one out of the window; but as the height from which he was to descend was twenty-five feet, he tied a blanket and a sheet together, and making one of them fast to a bar in the window, Edgworth Bess first descended, and Jack followed her.

Having reached the yard, they had still a wall of twenty-two feet high to scale; but climbing up by the locks and bolts of the great gate, they got quite out of the prison, and effected a perfect escape.

Sheppard's fame was greatly celebrated among the lowest orders of people by this exploit; and the thieves of St. Giles's courted his company. Among the rest, one Charles Grace, a cooper, begged that he would take him as an associate in his robberies, alledging as a reason for this request, that the girl he kept was so extravagant, that he could not support her on the profits of his own theft. Sheppard did not hesitate to make this new connection; but at the same time said that he did not admit of the partnership with a view to any advantage to himself, but that Grace might reap the profits of their depredations.

Sheppard and Grace making an acquaintance with Anthony Lamb, an apprentice to a mathematical instrument-maker near St. Clement's Church, it was agreed to rob a gentleman who lodged with Lamb's master; and at two o'clock in the morning Lamb let in the other villains, who stole money and effects to a large amount. They left the door open, and Lamb went to bed, to prevent suspicion: but notwithstanding this, his master suspected him, and having him taken into custody, he confessed the whole affair before a magistrate, and being committed to Newgate, he was tried, convicted, and received sentence to be transported.

On the same day Thomas Sheppard, (the brother of Jack) was indicted for breaking open the dwelling-house of Mary Cooke, and stealing her goods, and being convicted, was sentenced to transportation.

Jack Sheppard not being in custody, he and Blueskin committed a number of daring robberies, and sometimes disposed of the stolen goods to William Field. Jack used to say that Field wanted courage to commit a robbery, though he was as great a villain as ever existed.

Sheppard seems to have thought that courage consisted in villainy; and if this were the case Field had an undoubted claim to the character of a man of courage; for in October, 1721, he was tried on four indictments for felony and burglary, and he was an accomplice in a variety of robberies. He was likewise an evidence against

one of his companions in wickedness, upon another occasion.

Sheppard and Blueskin hired a stable near the Horse-Ferry, Westminster, in which they deposited their stolen goods, till they could dispose of them to the best advantage; and in this place they put the woollen cloth which was stolen from Mr. Kneebone; for Sheppard was concerned in this robbery, and at the sessions held at the Old Bailey in August, 1724, he was indicted for several offences, and among the rest, for breaking and entering the house of William Kneebone, and stealing 108 yards of woollen cloth, and other articles, and being capitally convicted, received sentence of death.

We must now go back to observe, that Sheppard and Blueskin having applied to Field to look at these goods, and procure a customer for them, he promised to do so; nor was he worse than his word; for in the night he broke open their warehouse, and stole the ill-gotten property, and then gave information against them to Jonathan Wild; in consequence of which they were apprehended.

On Monday the 30th of August, 1724, a warrant was sent to Newgate for the execution of Sheppard, with other convicts under sentence of death.

It is proper to observe, that in the old gaol of Newgate there was, within the lodge, a hatch, with large iron spikes, which hatch opened into a dark passage, whence there were a few steps into the condemned hold. The prisoners being permitted to come down to the hatch to speak with their friends, Sheppard, having been supplied with instruments, took an opportunity of cutting one of the spikes in such a manner that it might be easily broken off.

On the evening of the above-mentioned 30th of August, two women of Sheppard's acquaintance going to visit him, he broke off the spike, and thrusting his head and shoulders through the space, the women pulled him down, and he effected his escape, notwithstanding some of the keepers were at that time drinking at the other end of the lodge.

On the day after his escape, he went to a public-house in Spitalfields, whence he sent for an old acquaintance, one Page, a butcher, in Claremarket, and advised with him how to render his escape effectual for his future preservation. After deliberating on the matter, they agreed to go to Warnden in Northamptonshire, where Page had some relations: and they had no sooner resolved than they made the journey: but Page's relations treated him with indifference, they returned to London after being absent only about a week.

On the night after their return, as they were walking up Fleet-street together, they saw a watchmaker's shop open, and only a boy attending: having passed the shop they turned back, and Sheppard driving his hand through the window, stole three watches, with which they made their escape.

Some of Sheppard's old acquaintance informing him that strict search was making after them, he and Page retired to Finchley, in hope of laying there concealed till the diligence of the jail-keepers should relax: but the keepers of Newgate having intelligence of their retreat, took Sheppard into custody, and conveyed him to his old lodgings.

Such steps were now taken as it was thought would be effectual to prevent his future escape. He was put into a strong room called the Castle, hand-cuffed, loaded with a heavy pair of irons, and chained to a staple fixed in the floor.

The curiosity of the public having been greatly excited by his former escape, he was visited by great numbers of people of all ranks, and scarce any one left him without making him a present in money; though he would have more gladly received a file, a hammer, or a chisel; but the utmost care was taken that none of his visitors should furnish him with such implements.

Notwithstanding this disadvantageous situation, Sheppard was continually employing his thoughts on the means of another escape. On the 14th of October the sessions

began at the Old Bailey, and the keepers being much engaged in attending the court, he thought they would have little time to visit him; and therefore the present juncture would be the most favourable to carry his plan into execution.

About two o'clock in the afternoon of the following day one of the keepers carried him his dinner, and having carefully examined his irons, and finding them fast, he left him for the day.

Some days before this Jack had found a small nail in the room, with which he could, at pleasure, unlock the padlock that went from the chain to the staple in the floor; and in his own account of this transaction, he says "that "he was frequently about the room, and had several times "slept on the barracks, when the keepers imagined he had not been out of his chair."

The keeper had not left him more than an hour when he began his operations. He first took off his hand-cuffs, and then opened the padlock that fastened the chain to the staple. He next, by mere strength, twisted asunder a small link of the chain between his legs, and then drawing up his fetters as high as he could, he made them fast with his garters.

He then attempted to get up the chimney; but had not advanced far before he was stopped by an iron-bar that went across it; on which he descended, and with a piece of his broken chain picked out the mortar, and moving a small stone or two, about six feet from the floor, he got out the iron bar, which was three feet long and an inch square, and proved very serviceable to him in his future proceedings.

He in a short time made such a breach as to enable him to get into the Red-room over the castle; and here he found a large nail, which he made use of in his farther operations. It was seven years since the door of this Red-room had been opened; but Sheppard wrenched off the lock in less than seven minutes, and got into the passage leading to the chapel. In this place he found a door which was

bolted on the opposite side; but making a hole through the wall, he pushed the bolt back, and opened the door.

Arriving at the door of the chapel, he broke off one of the iron spikes, which keeping for his farther use, he got into an entry beswcen the chapel and the lower leads. The door of this entry was remarkably strong, and fastened with a large lock; and night now coming on, Sheppard was obliged to work in the dark. Notwithstanding this disadvantage, he, in half an hour, forced open the box of the lock, and opened the door; but this led him to another room still more difficult, for it was barred and bolted as well as locked: however, he wrenched the fillet from the main post of the door, and the box and staples came off with it.

It was now eight o'clock, and Sheppard found no farther obstruction to his proceedings; for he had only one other door to open, which being bolted on the inside, it was opened without difficulty, and he got over a wall to the upper leads.

He now considered how he should descend with the greatest safety, and found that the most convenient place for him to alight on would be the turner's house adjoining to Newgate; but as it would have been very dangerous to have jumped to such a depth, he went back for the blanket with which he used to cover himself when he slept in the castle; and endeavoured to fasten his stocking to the blanket, to ease his descent; but not being able to do so, he was compelled to use the blanket alone: wherefore he made it fast to the wall of Newgate with the spike that he took out of the chapel; and sliding down, dropped on the turner's leads just as the clock struck nine.

It happened that the door of the garret next the turner's leads was open, on which he stole softly down two pair of stairs, and heard some company talking in a room. His irons clinking, a woman cried, "What noise is that?" and a man answered, "perhaps the dog or cat."

Sheppard, who was now horridly fatigued, returned to the garret, and laid down for more than two hours; after

which he crept down once more as far as the room where the company were, when he heard a gentleman taking his leave of the family, and saw the maid light him down stairs. As soon as the maid returned he resolved to venture at all hazards; but in stealing down the stairs he stumbled against a chamber-door; but instantly recovering himself, he got into the street.

By this time it was after twelve o'clock, and passing by the watch-house of St. Sepulchre, he bid the watchmen good morrow, and going up Holborn, he turned down Gray's-inn-lane, and about two in the morning got into the fields near Tottenham-court, where he took shelter in a place that had been a cow-house, and slept soundly about three hours. His fetters being still on, his legs were greatly bruised and swelled, and he dreaded the approach of day-light, lest he should be discovered. He had now above forty shillings in his possession, but was afraid to send to any person for assistance.

At seven in the morning it began to rain hard, and continued to do so all day, so that no person appeared in the fields: and during this melancholy day he would, to use his own expression, "have given his right hand for a hammer, a chisel, and a punch." Night coming on, and being pressed by hunger, he ventured to a little chandler's shop in Tottenham court road, where he got a supply of bread, cheese, small-beer, and some other necessaries, hiding his irons with a long great coat. He asked the woman of the house for a hammer; but she had no such utensil: on which he retired to the cow-house, where he slept that night, and remained all the next day.

At night he went again to the chandler's shop, supplied himself with provisions, and returned to his hiding place. At six the next morning, which was Sunday, he began to beat the basils of his fetters with a stone, in order to bring them to an oval form, to slip his heels through. In the afternoon the master of the cow-house, coming thither, and seeing his irons, said, "For God's sake who are you?" Sheppard said he was an unfortunate young fellow, who

having had a bastard sworn to him, and not being able to give security to the parish for its support, he had been sent to Bridewell, from whence he had made his escape. The man said if that was all it did not much signify, but he did not care how soon he was gone, for he did not like his looks.

Soon after he was gone, Sheppard saw a journeyman shoemaker, to whom he told the same story of the bastard child, and offered him twenty shillings if he would procure a smith's hammer and a punch. The poor man, tempted by the reward, procured them accordingly, and assisted him in getting rid of his irons, which work was completed by five o'clock in the evening.

When night came on our adventurer tied a handkerchief about his head, tore his woollen cap in several places, and likewise tore his coat and stockings, so as to have the appearance of a beggar; and in this condition he went to a cellar near Charing-Cross, where he supped on roasted veal, and listened to the conversation of the company, all of whom were talking of the escape of Sheppard.

On the Monday he sheltered himself at a public-house of little trade, in Rupert-street, and conversing with the landlady about Sheppard, he told her it was impossible for him to get out of the kingdom; and the keepers would certainly have him again in a few days; on which the woman wished that a curse might fall on those who should betray him. Remaining in this place till evening, he went into the Hay-market, where a crowd of people were surrounding two ballad-singers, and listening to a song made on his adventures and escape.

On the next day he hired a garret in Newport-market, and soon afterwards, dressing himself like a porter, he went to Black-friars, to the house of Mr. Applebee, printer of the dying speeches, and delivered a letter, in which he ridiculed the printer, and the Ordinary of Newgate, and enclosed a letter for one of the keepers of Newgate.

Some nights after this he broke open the shop of Mr. Rawlins, a pawnbroker in Drury-lane, where he stole a

sword, a suit of wearing apparel, some snuff-boxes, rings, watches, and other effects, to a considerable amount. Determining to make the appearance of a gentleman among his old acquaintance in Drury-lane and Clare-market, he dressed himself in a suit of black and a tye-wig, wore a ruffled shirt, a silver-hilted sword, a diamond ring, and a gold watch; though he knew that diligent search was making after him at that very time.

On the 31st of October he dined with two women at a public-house in Newgate-street, and about four in the afternoon they all passed under Newgate in a hackney coach, having first drawn up the blinds. Going in the evening to a public-house in May-pole Alley, Clare-market, Sheppard sent for his mother, and treated her with brandy, when the poor woman dropped on her knees, and begged he would immediately quit the kingdom, which he promised to do, but had no intention of keeping his word.

Being now grown valiant through an excess of liquor, he wandered from alehouses to gin-shops in the neighbourhood, till near twelve o'clock at night, when he was apprehended in consequence of the information of an alehouse-boy who knew him. When taken into custody he was quite senseless, from the quantity and variety of liquors he had drank, and was conveyed to Newgate in a coach, without being capable of making the least resistance, though he had two pistols then in his possession.

His fame was now so much increased by his exploits that he was visited by great numbers of people, and some of them of the highest quality. He endeavoured to divert them by a recital of the particulars of many robberies in which he had been concerned; and when any nobleman came to see him, he never failed to beg that they would intercede with the king for a pardon, to which he thought that his singular dexterity gave him some pretentions.

Having been already convicted, he was carried to the bar of the court of King's-Bench on the 10th of November, and the record of his conviction being read, and an affidavit being made that he was the same John Sheppard mentioned

in the record, sentence of death was passed on him by Mr. Justice Powis, and a rule of court was made for his execution on the Monday following.

He regularly attended the prayers in the chapel, but though he behaved with decency there, he affected mirth before he went thither, and endeavoured to prevent any degree of seriousness among the other prisoners on their return.

Even when the day of execution arrived, Sheppard did not appear to have given over all expectations of eluding justice; for having been furnished with a penknife, he put it in his pocket, with a view, when the melancholy procession came opposite Little Turnstile, to have cut the cord that bound his arms, and throwing himself out of the cart, among the crowd, to have run through the narrow passage, where the sheriffs officers could not follow on horseback; and he had no doubt but he should make his escape, by the assistance of the mob.

It is not impossible but that this scheme might have succeeded: but before Sheppard left the press-yard, one Watson, an officer, searching his pockets, found the knife, and was cut with it, so as to occasion a great effusion of blood.

Sheppard had yet a farther view to his preservation, even after execution; for he desired his acquaintance to put him into a warm bed as soon as he should be cut down; and try to open a vein, which he had been told would restore him to life.

He behaved with great decency at the place of execution, and confessed the having committed two robberies, for which he had been tried and acquitted. He was executed at Tyburn on the 16th of November, 1724, in the 23d year of his age. He died with difficulty, and was much pitied by the surrounding multitude. When he was cut down his body was delivered to his friends, who carried him to a public-house in Long-acre, whence he was removed in the evening, and buried in the church-yard of St. Martin in the Fields.

It is astonishing to think how much Sheppard and his adventures engaged the attention of the public. For a considerable time there was scarcely a subject of conversation but himself. There were several different histories of his life; and a variety of prints were worked off, representing his escapes from the condemned hold, and from the castle in Newgate; and there were likewise several other prints of his person; the best of which was a mezzotinto, done from an original painting of Sir James Thornhill, which gave rise to the following ingenious lines.

Thornhill, 'tis thine to gild with fame
Th' obscure, and raise the humble name;
To make the form elude the grave,
And Sheppard from oblivion save.

Tho' life in vain the wretch implores,
An exile on the farthest shores,
Thy pencil brings a kind reprieve,
And bids the dying robber live.

This piece to latest time shall stand,
And show the wonders of thy hand.
Thus former masters grac'd their name,
And gave egregious robbers fame.

Appelles, Alexander drew,
Cæsar is to Amelius due,
Cromwell in Lely's works doth shine,
And Sheppard, Thornhill, lives in thine.

JOSEPH WALL,

MURDERER.

Executed before the Debtor's Door, Newgate, Jan. 28th, 1803.

THIS malefactor was descended from a good family in Ireland, and entered into the army at an early age. Of a severe and rather unaccommodating temper, he was not much liked among the officers. The late Captain Armstrong was his private agent, as well as agent to the African corps of which Mr. Wall was commandant. Mr. Wall was only Lieutenant Governor of Sene-Gambia, but acted as chief, the first appointment being vacant. It was an office he held but a short time, not more than two years. During which he was accused with the wilful murder of Benjamin Armstrong, by ordering him to receive 800 lashes, on the 10th of July, 1782, of which he died in five days afterwards.

His emoluments were very considerable, as, besides his military appointments, he was Superintendant of Trade to the Colony. His family were originally Roman Catholics, but of course he conformed to the Protestant Church, or he could not have held his commission. As soon as the account of the murder reached the Board of Amiralty, a reward was offered for his apprehension, but having evaded justice in 1784, he lived on the Continent, sometimes in France, and sometimes in Italy, but mostly in France, under an assumed name, where he lived respectable, and was admitted into good company. He particularly kept

company with the officers of his own country, who served in the French army, and was well known at the Scotch and Irish Colleges in Paris.

In 1797, he returned to this country, as if by a kind of fatality, without any apparent reason; and applied, through the medium of a friend, to obtain a safe retreat, which was procured him at a house in Lambeth Cut, where he remained several months, seldom going out, and that either very late or early. He was frequently advised by the friend who had procured him the lodging, to leave the country again, and questioned as to the motive for remaining; he never attempted, however, to give any, but appeared, even at the time when he was so studiously concealing himself, to have a distant intention of making a surrender, in order to take his trial. It is very evident his mind was not at ease, and that he was incapable of taking any firm resolution either one way or other. And even the manner in which he did give himself up, showed a singular want of determination, leaving it to chance whether the minister should send for him or not; for rather than go to deliver himself up, he wrote to say "he was ready to do so"—a less becoming, but not a less dangerous mode of encountering danger.

He was allied by marriage to a noble family, and his wife visited him frequently when in his concealment at Lambeth; and since that time he lived in Upper Thornhaugh-street, Bedford-square, when apprehended.

It is most probable, that had he not written to the Secretary of State, the matter had been so long forgotten, that he would never have been any way molested. His trial came on at the Old Bailey, Jan. 20th, 1802, about *twenty years* after the commission of the crime.

At the commencement of the trial, the prisoner said, he was very hard of hearing, and therefore requested that he might be allowed to sit by his Council. The chief Baron of the Exchequer, Chief Justice in the commission, with whom appeared Mr. Justice Rooke, and Mr. Justice Lawrence, said to the prisoner, "that is perfectly impossible;

there is a regular place appointed by the law for persons in your situation; we can make no distinction of the sort you desire; that would be invidious." It was proved by the witnesses that Armstrong was far from being undutiful in his behaviour, he was, however, tied to the gun-carriage: black men, brought there for the purpose, not the drummers, who in the ordinary course of things would have had to flog this man, supposing him to have deserved flogging; but black men were ordered to inflict on Armstrong the punishment ordered. Each took his turn, and gave this unhappy sufferer 25 lashes, until he had received the number of 800; and the instrument with which the punishment was inflicted, was not a cat-o'-nine-tails, which is the usual instrument, but a piece of rope of a greater thickness, and which was much more severe than the cat-o'-nine-tails. The rope was exhibited in evidence. While this punishment was inflicting, the prisoner urged the black men to be severe, he said, among other things, "cut him to the heart and to the liver."

Armstrong, the subject of this punishment, applied to him for mercy, but the observation of the defendant on this occasion, was, "that the sick season was coming on, which, together with the punishment would do for him." After receiving a great number of lashes, that is 800, this poor creature was conducted to the hospital. He was in a situation in which it was probable his death might be the consequence; he declared in his dying moments, he was punished without any trial, and without ever being so much as asked, whether he had any thing to say in his defence.

The prisoner in his defence urged, that the deceased was guilty of mutiny—that the punishment was not so severe as reported, but, that the deceased was suffered to drink strong spirits, when in the hospital. Several witnesses were called on the part of the prisoner, particularly Mrs. Lacy, widow of the captain who succeeded Mr. Wall, and Mary Falkner, who not only agreed with him in the outrageous conduct of the men, and the violent language

they used, but both positively swore that Lewis, the first witness against the prisoner, was not the orderly serjeant on that day; John Falkner, Peter Williams, and some others who were present, were also examined, and whose testimonies went in full corroboration of the account given by the prisoner, and so far went to his justification; but which in most material points was in direct contradiction to the evidence which had been given by the witnesses for the Crown.

The jury, after being out of court some time, pronounced a verdict of "guilty." The Recorder then proceeded to pass sentence of death upon him: that he be executed the following morning, and that his body be afterwards delivered to be anatomized, according to the statute. Mr. Wall seemed sensibly affected by the sentence, but said nothing more than requesting the court would allow him a little time to prepare himself for death. On the 21st of January, a respite was sent from Lord Pelham's office, deferring his execution until the 25th.

On the 24th, he was further respited till the 28th. During the time of his confinement, previous to trial, he occupied the apartment which was formerly the residence of Mr. Ridgway, the bookseller. His wife lived with him for the last fortnight; although he was allowed two hours a day, from twelve to two, to walk in the yard, he did not once embrace this indulgence; and during his whole confinement, never went out of his room, except into the lobby to consult his Counsel. He lived well, and was at times very facetious, easy in his manners, and pleasant in conversation; but during the night he frequently sat up in his bed and sang psalms, overheard by his fellow-prisoner. He had not many visitors, his only attendant was a prisoner, who was appointed for that purpose by the turnkey.

After trial he did not return to his old apartment, but was conducted to a cell; he was so far favoured as not to have irons put on, but a person was employed as a guard to watch him during the night to prevent him doing vio-

lence to himself. His bed was brought to him in the cell, on which he threw himself in an agony of mind, saying, it was his intention not to rise until they called him on the fatal morning. The Sheriffs were particularly pointed and precise in their orders, with respect to confining him to the usual diet of bread and water, preparatory to the awful event. This order was scrupulously fulfilled. The prisoner, during a part of the night, slept, owing to fatigue and perturbation of mind. The next morning his wife applied, but was refused admittance without an order from one of the Sheriffs. She applied to Mr. Sheriff Cox, who attended her to the prison.

From the time of the first respite, until 12 o'clock on Wednesday night, he did not cease to entertain hopes of his safety. The interest made to save him was very great. The whole of Wednesday occupied the great law officers; the judges met at the Chancellor's in the afternoon. The conference lasted upwards of three hours. About a little after four o'clock, Thursday the 28th, the scaffold began to be erected by torch-light, and was completed soon after seven, except the black hanging, which is not permitted to be displayed, nor the prison-bell to toll, for the departure of any one convicted of murder. The prisoner had an affecting interview with his wife, the Hon. Mrs. Wall, the night before, from whom he was painfully separated about eleven o'clock. The disconsolate and affectionate lady, unremitting in her solicitude, caused the colonel to write a note to Mr. Kirby, the gaoler, about nine o'clock, requesting that she might be permitted to remain in the cell until eleven; thus cordially manifesting her fond but delusive hopes to the very latest moment. Mr. Kirby, with a feeling of humanity highly creditable to his character, readily complied with this request. But, greatly unfortunate lady! she had not any acquisition of reasonable hope at the hour of her departure. Eleven o'clock came, and she saw the end of all her earthly joys! Numberless tender embraces now took place: the loving wife reluctantly departed, overwhelmed with grief, and bathed with

tears, while the unfortunate husband declared that he could now, with Christian fortitude, submit to his unhappy fate.

During the greater part of the night he slept but little. About four o'clock in the morning, his sleep was however observed to have become sound, and according to the best recollection of his attendant, he continued in this sleep rather more than an hour; so that he could not have heard the fatal machine in its passage to the debtors' door. His voice preserved its usual strength and tone to the end; and though very particular in his questions respecting the machinery in every part, yet he spoke of his approaching execution and death with perfect calmness. At half after six in the morning, his prison-attendant going to his cell, was asked by him "whether the noise he heard was not that of erecting his scaffold?" He was humanely replied to in the negative. The ordinary, Dr. Ford, soon after entered, when the prisoner devoutly joined him for some time in prayer. They then passed on to an anti-room, when the Governor asked, "whether it was a fine morning?" On being answered in the affirmative, he said, "the time hangs heavily: I am anxious for the close of this scene." One of the officers then proceeded to bind his arms with a cord, for which he extended them out firmly; but recollecting himself, he said, "I beg your pardon a moment:" and putting his hand in his pocket, he drew out two white handkerchiefs, one of which he bound over his temples, so as nearly to conceal his eyes, over which he placed a white cap, and then put on a round hat; the other handkerchief he kept between his hands. He then observed, "the cord cuts me; but it's no matter." On which Dr. Ford desired it to be loosened, for which the prisoner bowed, and thanked him.

As the clock struck eight, the door was thrown open, at which Sheriff Cox and his officers appeared. The Governor approaching him, said, "I attend you, sir;" and the procession to the scaffold, over the debtors' door, immediately succeeded. He had no sooner ascended it, accompanied by the Ordinary, than three successive shouts

from an innumerable populace, the brutal effusion of one common sentiment, evidently deprived him of the small portion of his fortitude which he had summoned up. He bowed his head under the extreme pressure of ignominy, when the hangman put the halter over it, but took it off again to replace it; this done the Governor stooped forward, and spoke to the Ordinary, who, no doubt at his request pulled the cap over the lower part of the face, when in an instant, without waiting for any signal, the platform dropped, and he was launched into eternity!

From the knot of the rope turning round to the back of the neck, and his legs not being pulled, as at his particular request, he was suspended in convulsive agony for more than a quarter of an hour. After hanging a full hour his body was cut down, put into a cart, and immediately conveyed to a building in Cow-cross-street, to be dissected. He was dressed in a mixed coloured loose coat, with a black collar, swan-down waistcoat, blue pantaloons, and white silk stockings. He appeared a miserable and emaciated object, never having quitted the bed of his cell from the day of condemnation till the morning of his execution. The crowd, though prodigious, was said to be not so great as that which attended the execution of Adamson and Wilkinson for forgery, about three years before; but the public indignation had never been so high since the death of Mrs. Brownrigg.

The body of the unfortunate Governor was not exposed to public view, as usual in such cases. Mr. Belfour, Secretary to the Surgeons' company, applied to Lord Kenyon, to know whether such exposure was necessary; and, finding that the forms of dissection only were required, the body, after those forms had passed, was consigned to the relations of the unhappy man, upon their paying fifty guineas to the Philanthropic Society. His remains were interred in the Church-yard of St. Pancrass.

CHARLES PRICE,

FORGER.

THE subject of this narrative was born about the year 1730, in London—his father lived in Monmouth-street, and carried on the trade of a salesman in old clothes—here he died in the year 1752, of a broken heart, occasioned, it is said, by the bad conduct of his children.

In early life Charles manifested those traits of duplicity for which he was afterwards so greatly distinguished. One instance shall be mentioned; he ripped off some gold lace from a suit of old clothes in his father's shop, and putting on his elder brother's coat, went to sell it to a Jew. The Jew, most unfortunately, came and offered it to the father for sale, he instantly knew it, and insisted on the Jew's declaring whence he received it. The boys passing by, he pointed to the elder, on account of his *coat*, as the person of whom he bought it, and he was directly seized, and severely flogged. His protestations of innocence were in vain, the father was inflexible, whilst Charles, with an abominable relish for hypocrisy, secretly rejoiced in the castigation.

His father, tired of the tricks and knaveries of his son Charles, put him an apprentice to a hosier in St. James's-street. Here he continued but for a short time; he robbed his father of an elegant suit of clothes, in which he dressed himself, went to his master in this disguise, purchased about ten pounds worth of silk stockings, left his address, Benjamin Bolingbroke, esq. Hanover-square, and ordered them to be sent him in an hour's time, when he would pay the person who brought them. His master did not know him, and, to complete the cheat, our hero

came back in half an hour in his usual dress, was ordered to take the goods home, which he actually pretended to do, and thus were both master and father robbed. He was, however, soon afterwards found out, and discarded.

Henceforward, therefore, we are to regard him in society, wherein, for a series of years, practised the most outrageous arts of duplicity. Soon after this period he set off for Holland, under the assumed name of Johnson. Forging a recommendation to a Dutch merchant, becomes his clerk, debauches his master's daughter, is offered her in marriage, robs his master, and returns to England. He conducts this business with the most consummate villainy. He now contrived to become clerk in his majesty's small-beer brewhouse, near Gosport. At this place he behaved himself with so much propriety, that he was on the point of forming a matrimonial connexion with his master's daughter.

Every thing, however, was soon laid aside by an accidental discovery. The Jew, to whom he had formerly sold the gold lace, happened to live at Portsmouth, by whom his character was soon disclosed. Thus were his hopes put to flight; and he was again thrown upon the wide world. As his wits were never long unemployed for some deceptive ends, he thought of advertising for a partner in the brewery line; and actually issued the following curious advertisement in the year 1775—

"WANTED,

"A partner of character, probity, and extensive acquaintance, upon a plan permanent and productive fifty per cent. without risk, may be obtained. It is not necessary he should have any knowledge of the business, which the advertiser possesses in its fullest extent; but he must possess a capital of between 500 and 1000 pounds to purchase materials, with which, to the knowledge of the advertiser, a large fortune must be made in a very short time.

"Address to P. C. Cardigan Head, Charing Cross.

"P. S. None but principals, and those of liberal ideas, will be treated with."

To this advertisement the famous comedian, Samuel Foote, Esq. paid attention. Eager to seize what he thought a golden opportunity, he advanced the sum of 300l. for a brewery; we need not add, that the sum soon disappeared, and Foote was wrung with the anguish of disappointment. Price, however, had the impudence to apply to him again, wishing him to unite in the baking trade; the comedian archly replied: "As you have brewed so you may bake; but I'll be cursed if ever you bake as you have brewed!"

After this unfortunate business, Mr. Price turned methodist preacher, and in this character defrauded several persons of large sums of money. Advertising in order to get gentlemen wives, he swindled a person of the name of Wigmore of fifty guineas, for which he was indicted; but having refunded a part, effects his escape. These, and other fraudulent practices, were long the objects of his ambition; though they are all the sure and certain roads to infamy. Such was his strange propensity.

With astonishing impudence he again sets up a brewery in Gray's Inn Lane; and after various frauds, he became a bankrupt in 1776. Ever fruitful in resources, he set out for Germany, but in Holland he gets into prison for a concern in a smuggling scheme, by which three hundred pounds were obtained. By his artful defence he escaped, and returned to his native country. Here he once more engaged his attention, by a sham brewery at Lambeth, where he was married. Continuing, however, to practise his deceptions, he was obliged to decamp, went actually to Copenhagen, and, after some time, came back to England, where he was doomed to close his days.

His breweries having failed, he now proceeded to study how in other ways he might most effectually ravage socie-

ty. Under the pretence of charity, he obtains money, for which he was imprisoned; and having been liberated, he, as a clergyman, succeeds in various impositions. This eventually brought him to the King's Bench prison, from whose walls he dexterously extricates himself. A lottery-office keeper was the subject of his attention; but decamping with a ticket of large value, this scheme speedily came to a termination. To recount all his tricks would form the contents of a well-sized volume. Alas! for human depravity.

But we now arrive at the period of his life, when he commenced his ravages upon the bank of England, which ended in his destruction. Such a series of iniquitous devices were never before practised on mankind. In the year 1780, (under the assumed name of Brank) Mr. Price engaged a servant, a plain simple honest fellow; by whom he passed his notes without detection. He advertised for him, and conducted himself towards him in a manner truly curious.

Of the advertisement he heard nothing for a week; one evening, however, just as it was dusk, a coachman inquired for the man who had answered the advertisement, saying, "there was a gentleman over the way, in a coach, "who wanted to speak with him." On this the young fellow was called, and went to the coach, where he was desired to step in. There he saw an apparent old man, affecting the foreigner, seemingly very gouty, wrapped up with five or six yards of flannel about his legs, a camlet surtout buttoned over his chin, close to his mouth, a large patch over his left eye, and every part of his face so hid, that the young fellow could not see any part of it, except his nose, his right eye, and a small part of that cheek.

To carry on the deception still better, Mr. Price thought proper to place the man on his left side, on which the patch was, so that the old gentleman could take an askance look at the young man with his right eye, and by that means discover only a small portion of his face.

He appeared, by his disguise, to be between sixty and seventy years of age; and afterwards, when the man saw him standing, not much under six feet high, owing to shoes or boots with heels, very little less than three inches high. Added to this deception, he was so buttoned up and straightened as to appear perfectly lank.

The writer of his life, to whom we are indebted for these particulars, then subjoins: "It may not be ill-timed, to those who did not know him, to give the true description of his person. He was about five feet six inches high, a compact neat man, square shouldered; inclined to corpulency. His legs were firm and well-set; but by nature his features made him look much older than he really was, which, at that time, was near fifty. His nose was aquiline, and his eyes small and grey; his mouth stood very much inwards, with very thin lips; his chin pointed and prominent, with a pale complexion: but what contributed as much as any thing, to favour his disguise of speech, was his loss of teeth. He walked exceedingly upright, was very active and quick in his walk; and was something above what we describe a man to be when we call him a dapper-made man."

This simple and honest fellow Samuel, did Mr. Price employ to negociate his forged bills, principally in the purchase of lottery tickets, at the same time never fully disclosing to him his name, person, or history. Indeed the plan was devised and executed with uncommon ability. However, Samuel was at last detected, having passed bills to the amount of fourteen hundred pounds! But his agent eluded discovery, and retired with his booty into the shades of the deepest obscurity. The poor servant was imprisoned for near a twelvemonth, terrified out of his wits at being the innocent instrument of such complicated villainy.

Mr. Price having most probably exhausted his former acquisitions, sallies forth in the year 1792, after new game, with the most unparalleled audacity. For this purpose he obtained his second servant from a register office: a smart active boy of the name of Power; his father was a Scots

Presbyterian, and to ingratiate himself with him, Mr. Price made great pretentions to religion, expressing a hope that his son was well acquainted with the Lord's prayer, and the Ten Commandments. Our hero began his ravages upon Mr. Spilsbury, of Soho-square, ordering large quantities of his drops. Wilmot was his present assumed name, and he introduced himself to him as possessing all the symptoms of age and infirmity.

He was wrapped in a large camlet great coat, he had a slouched hat on, the brim of which was large and bent downward on each side of his head, a piece of red flannel covered his chin, and came up on each side of his face, almost as high as the cheek bones, he had a large bush wig on, and legs wrapped over with flannel. He had also a pair of green spectacles on his nose, with a green silk shade hanging down from his hat, but no patch on his eye.

It is remarkable that Mr. Spilsbury knew Mr. Price, but not Mr. Wilmot; nay, so complete was the deception, that sitting together in a coffee-house, Mr. S. complained to his coffee-house acquaintance of the notes which Wilmot had imposed upon him, Price kept crying out now and then, "Lack a day! Good God! who could conceive such knavery to exist? What, and did the Bank refuse payment, Sir? staring through his spectacles with as much seeming surprise as an honest man would have done. "O yes," said Mr. S. with some degree of acrimony, "for it was on the faith of the bank of England that I and a great many others have taken them; and they were so inimitably well done, that the nicest judges could not distinguish them." "Good God! lack a day," said Price, "he must have been an ingenious villain? What a complete scoundrel!"

Upon Mr. Watt, a hosier, Mr. Reeves, a colour-man, and a great many other individuals, he practised frauds equally ingenious and successful, for in one day he negotiated sixty ten pound notes, changed fourteen fifty pound notes, for seven one hundred pound notes; indeed, so multiplied are his tricks at this period, that the mind sickens at the recital of them.

In his last attempt on the bank, which ended in his detection, he assumed the name of Palton, pretending he was an Irish linen factor, and employed two young men to circulate his notes, whilst he, still greatly disguised, kept back in obscurity.

By means of a pawn-broker, he was found out with great difficulty. On his seizure he solemnly declared his innocence, and before the magistrate behaved with insolence. This detection took place on the 14th of January, 1786; he was soon swore to by more persons than one; and seeing no way to escape, he pretended, to his wife in particular, great penitence; but there was no ground for its reality. The bank was fully intent on the prosecution of him, and there was no doubt of his dying by the hands of the executioner. He, however, was found one evening hanging against the post of his door in his apartments, Tothill-fields, Bridewell. Thus was the earth freed from as great a MONSTER as ever disgraced society.

JOHN MATTHEWS,

TRAITOR.

Executed at Tyburn, November 16th, 1719.

THIS malefactor was the son of a printer in Aldersgate-Street, to whom he was apprenticed; but his father dying, he continued to serve with his mother. Having made connections with some persons of Jacobitical principles, he printed some papers against the government, for which he was once taken into custody; but the evidence being incomplete, he was dismissed.

Encouraged by this escape, he was induced to print a pamphlet, entitled "Ex ore tuo te Judico: Vox populi, "vox Dei." * For this offence he was brought to his trial, on the 30th of October, 1719, when it appeared that he had composed the pages of the pamphlet in question, but locked them up, lest they should be found, and made use of to his prejudice.

An elder brother of Matthews, apprehending that the youth might endanger himself by his propensity to the printing such pamphlets, directed a journeyman, named Lawrence Vezey, to lock up the door of the printing-house every night, and bring him the key: but Vezy, like a villain as he was, first suffered the young fellow to print the supposed treasonable matter, and then gave evidence against him.

---

* That is, "Out of thy own mouth will I judge thee:—the Voice of the "people is the Voice of God."

A general warrant being granted by the secretary of state, for the search of Mrs. Matthew's house, the blood-hounds of government found a number of the supposed libel in a room which the prisoner acknowledged to belong to him; on which he was carried before the secretary of state, who committed him to Newgate on his refusing to give up the author.

When Matthews was arraigned at the bar, Vezey swore that the prisoner brought the form, containing part of the book, to the press, and bid him pull a proof of it; which he did, and that the prisoner afterwards came down to him, and said that the pages had been transposed, but he had now put them right; and he then pulled him another proof; he said that then the prisoner desired this evidence to come early in the morning to work off the sheets, saying, that he himself would take care of the paper, and that every thing should be ready.

Accordingly Vezey went early one morning, intending to call up William Harper, the apprentice; but the prisoner came to the door, let him in, and called Harper, who assisted Vezey in working off the sheets, Matthews standing by, and taking them from the press, for the greater expedition: and when the work was done the prisoner paid Vezey for his trouble. This evidence was likewise confirmed by Harper, as far as he was concerned in the transaction, and he added that he saw the prisoner composing the matter * from the manuscript copy.

The council for the crown exerted their utmost abilities to aggravate the crime of the prisoner, and the king's messengers swearing to as much as they knew of the affair, Matthews was found guilty, and sentence of death was passed on him.

---

* "Composing the matter" is a term with printers, which signifies picking up the letters, and arranging them in proper order for their being worked off at the printing-press.

After condemnation he was attended by the Reverend Mr. Skerrett, who also accompanied him to the place of execution. His whole behaviour after sentence was such as might be expected from one who had too much sense to expect favour from the people then in power: for it was not customary with the ministers of George the first to extend mercy to persons convicted of treasonable offences: but perhaps their seeming want of humanity will appear the more excusable, if we reflect on the fatal consequences that might have ensued from the rebellion in 1715.

But nothing can excuse the method they took to obtain evidence in this case. It is but of late years that the issuing of general warrants has been legally condemned; and Englishmen are not a little obliged to a man who (whatever his faults may be) has procured the condemnation of these warrants. Happily, we can now sit quietly, and write our sentiments in our own houses, without being liable to have our papers seized by the arbitrary mandates of a secretary of state. While we recollect that we are obliged for this favour in a great degree to the perseverance of Mr. Wilkes, we should not forget that the judicial determination of Lord Camden perfected the plan so happily begun, and so steadily pursued.

The above-mentioned John Matthews was executed at Tyburn on the 16th of November, 1719, before he had completed the 19th year of his age; and was pitied by every one who had not lost the common feelings of humanity.

JAMES HILL, alias HIND, alias ATKINS, alias JOHN THE PAINTER,

INCENDIARY.

Executed at Portsmouth, March 20th, 1779.

THIS malefactor had been a journeyman to Mr. Golding, a painter, at Tichfield, whence he procured the familiar title of *John the Painter*. During a residence of some years in America, he imbibed principles incompatible with the interests of this country. Transported with party zeal, he formed the desperate resolution of committing a most atrocious crime, which he, in some degree, effected.

About four o'clock in the afternoon of the 7th of December, 1776, a fire broke out in the rope-house of Portsmouth-dock, which entirely consumed that building. The fire was wholly attributed to accident; but on the 5th of January, three men who were employed in the hemp-house, found a tin machine, somewhat resembling a tea canister, and near the same spot a wooden box containing various kinds of combustibles.

This circumstance being communicated to the commissioner of the dock, and circulated among the public, several vague and indefinite suspicions fell upon Hill, who had been lurking about the dock-yard, whose surname was not known, but who had been distinguished by the appellation of John the Painter.

In consequence of advertisements in the newspapers, offering a reward of 50*l.* for apprehending him, he was

secured at Odiam. On the 7th of February, the prisoner was examined at Sir John Fielding's office, Bow-street, where John Baldwin, who exercised the trade of a painter in different parts of America, attended by the direction of Lord Temple, who imagined that the parties might know each other. Baldwin declared he had not the least knowledge of the prisoner, who then bowed to him, and soon after requested that he would favour him with a visit in the New-prison. Baldwin attended him in the afternoon, and on the following days till the 15th, and the subsequent days till the 24th, the prisoner's discourse with Baldwin operated very materially towards his conviction, as it was brought in corroboration of a variety of evidence on trial.

He asked Baldwin whether he was acquainted with Mr. Dean, and being answered in the negative, exclaimed, "What not know Mr. Dean, Silas Dean, employed by the congress? He is a fine fellow. I believe Benjamin Franklin is employed on the same errand." He said he had taken a view of most of the dock-yards and fortifications about England, the number of ships in the navy, and observed their weight of metal, and their number of men, and had been to France two or three times to inform Silas Dean of his discoveries; and that Dean gave him bills to the amount of 300*l.* and letters of recommendation to a merchant in the city, which he had burnt, lest they should lead to a discovery. He informed Baldwin, that he had instructed a tin-man's apprentice at Canterbury, to make him a tin canister, which he carried to Portsmouth, where he hired a lodging at one Mrs. Boxall's, and tried his preparations for setting fire to the Dock-yard.

After recounting the manner of preparing matches and combustibles, he said, that on the 6th of the preceding December, he got into the hemp-house, and having placed a candle in a wooden box and a tin canister over it, and sprinkled turpentine over some of the hemp, he proceeded to the rope-house, where he placed a bottle of turpentine among a quantity of loose hemp, which he sprinkled

with turpentine, and having laid matches, made of paper painted over with powdered charcoal and gun-powder diluted with water, and other combustibles about the place, he returned to his lodgings.

These matches were so contrived as to continue burning for twenty-four hours; so that by cutting it into proper lengths he provided for his escape, knowing the precise time when the fire would reach the combustibles.

He had hired lodgings in two other houses to which he intended to set fire, that the engines might not be all employed together in quenching the conflagration at the dock. On the 7th he again went to the hemp-house, intending to set it on fire, which he, however was unable to effect, owing to a half-penny worth of common house matches that he had bought not being sufficiently dry. This disappointment, he said, rendered him exceedingly uneasy, and he went from the hemp-house to the rope-house, and set fire to the matches he had placed there.

He said his uneasiness was increased because he could not return to his lodging, where he had left a bundle containing an Ovid's Metamorphoses, a treatise on war and making fire-works, a Justin, a pistol, and a French passport, in which his real name was inserted.

When he had set fire to the rope-house, he proceeded towards London, deeply regretting his failure in attempting to fire the other building, and was strongly inclined to fire into the windows of the woman who had sold him the bad matches. He jumped into a cart, and gave the woman who drove it sixpence, to induce her to drive quick: and when he had passed the centinels, observed the fire to have made so rapid a progress, that the "element seemed in a blaze."

About ten the next morning, he arrived at Kingston, where he remained until the dusk of the evening, and proceeded to London in a stage. Soon after his arrival, he waited upon the gentleman in the city, and informed him of having been under the necessity of burning the bills upon, and letters to, him from Silas Dean. The gentleman behaved to him with shyness, but appointed to meet him at a coffee-house.

At the coffee-house the gentleman seemed to be doubtful as to the story told by Hill, who therefore went away displeased, and as soon as he reached Hammersmith wrote to the merchant, saying, he was going to Bristol, and that the "handy works" he meant to perform there would be soon known to the public.

A short time after his arrival at Bristol, he set fire to several houses, which were all burning with great rapidity at one time, and the flames were not extinguished till damage was sustained to the amount of fifteen thousand pounds. He also set fire to combustibles that he had placed among a number of oil barrels upon the quay, but happily without effect. He related to Baldwin a great number of other circumstances, which were confirmed by a variety of evidence on his trial, which came on, Thursday, March 6, 1777, at Winchester Castle, before the Right Hon. Sir William Henry Ashurst, Knt. and Sir Beaumont Hotham, Knt. James Russel produced a tin case and a wooden box, made to fit each other, containing combustibles, which he swore he found in the hemp-house at Portsmouth.

William Tench, apprentice to a tin-man at Canterbury, deposed, that about a month or six weeks before Christmas he made the tin case produced by Russel, by the order and under the immediate inspection of the prisoner.

Elizabeth Boxall swore, that the prisoner lodged at her house on the night preceding that on which the fire happened, and that in the morning she perceived a violent smell of sulphur, and going into the prisoner's room complained that she was fearful he would set fire to her house; that he left a bundle, which she opened and found to contain a tin case; and being shewn the canister produced by Russel, she believed it to be the same.

Mrs. Cole swore, that the prisoner took a lodging at her house, and left there a bundle, containing some books and other things, which she delivered to Mr. Jeffrey, clerk to the commissioner of the dock. John Fisher, servant to Mr. Tuck, tinman, at Canterbury, deposed, that about six or seven weeks before Christmas the prisoner came to his

master's shop, and gave orders for two tin cases, but that, not being finished at the time he had appointed to call for them, they were left on his master's hands. Fisher produced one of the cases, which was found to correspond with that found in the hemp house. William Baldy and William Weston swore, that they saw and conversed with the prisoner in the hemp-house at Portsmouth on the 7th of December.

Ann Hopkins deposed, that about four, or half past four, of the day on which the fire happened at Portsmouth dock, the prisoner overtook her near the Flying Bull at Cosham, and saying he was going to Petersfield, and fearing he should be benighted, desired she would allow him to ride part of the way in her cart, and gave her sixpence in order that she might drive quick; and that, when she came within sight of her house, he leaped out of the cart, and took the road leading to London.

Ann Gentle swore, that on the day before the fire at Portsmouth, the prisoner bought a halfpenny worth of matches at her shop, on Portsmouth Common: and John Hollingdon swore, that, as far as he could judge from human probability, the prisoner was the man to whom he sold two ounces of spirits of turpentine, and a quarter of a pound of salt-petre, either three or four days before or after the 20th of November.

Mary Bishop deposed, that some time between Michaelmas and Christmas the prisoner came to her house in Canterbury, and asked whether she could procure a wooden thing to be made for him. Being shown the wooden box found with the tin case in the hemp-house, she said, she saw a thing like it brought to the prisoner, by Mr. Ormisham's apprentice, who was since dead. John Dobby, who apprehended the prisoner, declared, that he found in his custody the following articles; a snuff-box containing tinder, a small powder-horn with gunpowder, a striking tinder-box primed, a phial half-full of spirits of turpentine, a parcel of matches, and some other things of a suspicious nature.

Thomas Mason, a painter, near Bristol, swore, that the day after Christmas-day, the prisoner came to his house, and asked leave to grind a small quantity of charcoal; that

he directed him to his colour-stone, on which he worked two hours in grinding a piece of charcoal about the size of two of his fingers. The bundle left by the prisoner at Mrs. Cole's was then produced: and the clerk informed the court that it contained a loaded pistol, a French passport and some books, the titles of which he read. The court then informed the prisoner, that the evidence against him was closed, and called upon him for his defence. He called no witnesses, but addressed the court two or three times, and proposed some questions to Baldwin, but said nothing tending to invalidate the charge against him.

The judge then summed up the evidence in a clear, circumstantial, and candid manner; and the Jury pronounced him guilty: in consequence of which the Judge addressed him in a manner truly pathetic, reminding him of the shocking enormity of his crime, which was of such a nature as would not admit the possibility of his sentence being reversed, and exhorting him to exert his utmost endeavours that the eternity he was to enter upon in a few days might prove "an eternity of bliss instead of misery." The prisoner said, he entertained "no hopes of pardon, but was willing to die, more so than to live." He suffered at Portsmouth on the 10th of March, 1777.

RICHARD COLEMAN,

Executed at Kennington-Common, April 19th, 1749.

Innocently.

THIS unfortunate man was indicted at the assizes held at Kingston, in Surrey, in March 1749, for the murder of Sarah Green, on the 23d of July preceding; when he was capitally convicted.

Mr. Coleman had received a decent education, and was clerk to a brewer at the time the affair happened which cost him his life; and had a wife and several children, who were reduced to accept the bounty of the parish, in consequence of his conviction.

The murdered person was Sarah Green, who, having been with some acquaintance to a beanfeast in Kennington-lane, staid to a late hour, and on her return towards Southwark, she met with three men, who had the appearance of brewers' servants, two of whom lay with her by force, and otherwise used her in so inhuman a manner as will bear no description.

Such was the ill-treatment she had received, that it was two o'clock in the morning before she was able to reach her lodgings, and on the following day was so ill, that she informed several people how she had been treated; on which she was sent to St. Thomas's hospital.

While in the hospital she declared that the clerk in Taylor's (then Berry's) brewhouse was one of the parties who had treated her in such an infamous manner; and it was supposed that Coleman was the person to whom she alluded.

Two days after the shocking transaction had happened, Coleman and one Daniel Trotman happened to call at the Queen's-head alehouse in Bandy-leg-walk, when the latter was perfectly sober, but the former in a state of intoxication. Having called for some rum and water, Coleman was stirring it with a spoon, when a stranger asked him what he had done with the pig; meaning a pig that had been lately stolen in the neighbourhood. Coleman, unconscious of guilt, and conceiving himself affronted by such an impertinent question, said "D—n the pig, what is it to me?"

The other, who seems to have had an intention to ensnare him, asked him if he did not know Kennington-lane? Coleman answered that he did, and added "D—n ye, what of that?" The other then asked him if he knew the woman that had been so cruelly treated in Kennington-lane? Coleman replied yes, and again said "D—n ye, what of that?" The other man asked. "Was not you one of the parties concerned in that affair?" Coleman, who, as we have said, was intoxicated, and had no suspicion of design, replied, "If I had, you dog, what then?" and threw at him the spoon with which he was stirring the liquor. A violent quarrel ensued: but at length Coleman went away with Trotman.

On the following day Coleman, calling at the Queen's-head abovementioned, the landlord informed him how imprudently he had acted the preceding day. Coleman, who had been too drunk to remember what had passed, asked if he had offended any person; on which the landlord informed him of what had happened: but the other, still conscious of his innocence, paid no regard to what he said.

On the 29th of August, Daniel Trotman and another man went before Mr. Clarke, a magistrate in the Borough, and charged Coleman on suspicion of having violently assaulted, and cruelly treated, Sarah Green, in the Parsonage-walk, near Newington church, in Surrey.

The magistrate, who does not seem to have supposed

that Coleman was guilty, sent for him, and hired a man to attend him to the hospital, where the wounded woman lay; and a person pointing out Coleman, asked if he was one of the persons who had used her so cruelly. She said, she believed he was: but as she declined to swear positively to his having any concern in the affair, justice Clarke admitted him to bail.

Some time afterwards, Coleman was again taken before the magistrate, when nothing positive being sworn against him, the justice would have absolutely discharged him: but Mr. Wynne, the master of the injured girl, requesting that he might once more be taken to see her, a time was fixed for that purpose, and the justice took Coleman's word for his appearance.

The accused party came punctually to his time, bringing with him the landlord of an alehouse where Sarah Green had drank, on the night of the affair, with the three men who really injured her; and this publican, and other people, declared on oath that Coleman was not one of the parties.

On the following day, justice Clarke went to the hospital, to take the examination of the woman on oath. Having asked her if Coleman was one of the men who had injured her, she said she could not tell, as it was dark at the time; but Coleman being called in, an oath was administered to her, when she swore that he was one of the three men that abused her.

Notwithstanding this oath, the justice, who thought the poor girl not in her right senses, and was convinced in his own mind of the innocence of Coleman, permitted him to depart, on his promise of bringing bail the following day, to answer the complaint at the next assizes for Surrey; and he brought his bail and gave security accordingly.

Sarah Green dying in the hospital, the coroner's jury sat to inquire into the cause of her death; and having found a verdict of Wilful Murder against Richard Coleman, and two persons then unknown, a warrant was issued to take Coleman into custody.

Though this man was conscious of his innocence, yet such were his terrors at the idea of going to prison on such a charge, that he absconded, and secreted himself at Pinner, near Harrow on the Hill.

King George the second being then at Hanover, a proclamation was issued by the Lords of the Regency, offering a reward of 50l. for the apprehension of the supposed offender; and to this the parish of St. Saviour, Southwark, added a reward of 20l.

Coleman read the advertisement for his apprehension in the Gazette, but was still so thoughtless as to conceal himself; though perhaps an immediate surrender would have been deemed the strongest testimony of his innocence; however, to assert his innocence, he caused the following advertisement to be printed in the news-paper.

"I Richard Coleman, seeing myself advertised in the "Gazette, as absconding on account of the murder of Sarah "Green, knowing myself not any way culpable, do assert "that I have not absconded from Justice; but will willingly "and readily appear at the next assize, knowing that my "innocence will acquit me."

Strict search being made after him, he was apprehended at Pinner, abovementioned, on the 22d of November, and lodged in Newgate, whence he was removed to the New Gaol, Southwark, 'till the time of the assizes at Kingston in Surrey; when his conviction arose principally from the evidence of Trotman, and the declaration of the dying woman.

Some persons positively swore that he was in another place at the time the fact was committed; but their evidence was not credited by the jury: though it will be seen, in a subsequent part of this work, that it would have been happy if a proper attention had been paid to it.

After conviction Coleman behaved like one who was possessed of conscious innocence, and who had no fear of death for a crime which he had not committed.

He was attended at the place of execution by the Rev. Mr. Wilson, to whom he delivered a paper, in which he

declared, in the most solemn and explicit manner, that he was altogether innocent of the crime alledged against him. He died with great resignation; lamenting only the distress in which he should leave a wife and two children.

This unhappy victim to erroneous evidence suffered the sentence of the law at Kennington-common on the 12th of April, 1769.

About two years after Coleman's death, it was discovered that James Welch, Thomas Jones, and John Nichols, were the persons who actually treated Sarah Green in that inhuman manner which occasioned her decease. These offenders had been acquainted from their childhood, and had kept the murder a secret, till it was discovered in the following manner.

While Welch, and a young fellow named James Bush, were walking on the road to Newington Butts, their conversation happened to turn on the subject of those who had been executed without being guilty; and Welch said, "among whom was Coleman. Nichols, Jones, and I, were the persons who committed the murder for which he was hanged." In the course of conversation, Welch owned that, having been at a public-house called Sot's-hole, they had drank plentifully, and on their return through Kennington-lane, met with a woman, with whom they went as far as the Parsonage-walk, near the church-yard of Newington, where she was so horribly abused, by Nichols and Jones, that Welch declined offering her any farther insult.

Bush did not at that time appear to pay any particular attention to what he heard: but soon afterwards, as he was crossing London-bridge with his father, he addressed him as follows: "Father, I have been extremely ill; and as I am afraid I shall not live long, I should be glad to discover something that lies heavy on my mind." Accordingly they went to a public-house in the Borough, where Bush related this story to his father, which was scarce ended, when seeing Jones at the window, they called him in, and desired

him to drink with them. He had not been long in company, when they told him they heard he was one of the murderers of Sarah Green, on whose account Coleman suffered death. Jones trembled and turned pale on hearing what they said; but soon assuming a degree of courage, said, "What does it signify? The man is hanged, and the woman dead, and nobody can hurt us;" to which he added, "We were connected with a woman, but who can tell that was the woman Coleman died for?" In consequence of this acknowledgement Nichols, Jones and Welch, were soon afterwards apprehended; when all of them steadily denied their guilt; and the hear-say testimony of Bush being all that could be adduced against them, Nichols was admitted evidence for the crown; in consequence of which all the particulars of the horrid murder were developed.

The prisoners being brought to trial at the next assizes for the county of Surrey, Nichols deposed, that himself, with Welch and Jones, having been drinking at the house called the Sot's-hole, on the night that the woman was used in such an inhuman manner, they quitted the house, in order to return home, when meeting a woman, they asked her if she would drink; which she declined, unless they would go to the king's head, where she would treat them with a pot of beer. Hereupon they went, and drank both beer and geneva with her; and then all the parties going forward to the parsonage-walk, the poor woman was treated in a manner too shocking to be described.

It appeared that, at the time of the perpetration of the fact, the murderers wore white aprons; and that Jones and Welch called Nichols by the name of Coleman; circumstances that evidently led to the prior conviction of that unfortunate man; as it caused the dying girl to mistake their persons.

On the whole state of the evidence there seemed to be no doubt of the guilt of the prisoners, so that the jury did not hesitate to convict them, and sentence of death passed of course.

After conviction they behaved with the utmost contrition, being attended by the Rev. Dr. Howard, rector of St. George's, Southwark, to whom they readily confessed their offences. They likewise signed a declaration, which they begged might be published, containing the fullest assertion of Coleman's innocence; and, exclusive of this acknowledgment, Welch wrote to the brother of Coleman, confessing his guilt, and begging his prayers and forgiveness. Jones wrote to his sister, then living in the service of a genteel family at Richmond, requesting her to make interest in his favour: but the answer he received was, that his crime was of such a nature, that she could not ask a favour for him with any degree of propriety. She earnestly begged of him to prepare for death, and implore a pardon at that tribunal where alone it could be expected.

They suffered at Kennington common, on the 6th of September, 1751.

ELIZABETH BRANCH, AND MARY BRANCH, HER DAUGHTER.

MURDERERS.

Executed at Ivelchester, in Somersetshire, May 3d, 1740.

PHILIPS-NORTON, in Somersetshire, gave birth to the elder Mrs. Branch, who was distinguished from her childhood by the cruelty of her disposition, which increased with her increasing years, and frequently discovered itself on various occasions, and particularly in fomenting divisions among her father's servants, to render whom unhappy appeared to be one of the greatest pleasures of her life.

Her parents observing with regret this ferosity of temper, told her that she would never get a husband unless she changed her conduct. This seemed for a while to have some influence on her, which gave great satisfaction to her parents; but it will appear from the following narrative that this influence was not lasting.

Being addressed by a gentleman-farmer, named Branch, a marriage took place; but the husband soon found what an unfortunate choice he had made: for his wife no sooner came into possession of her matrimonial power, than she began to exercise her tyranny on her servants, whom she treated with undeserved, and unaccountable cruelty, frequently denying them the common necessaries of life,

and sometimes turning them out of doors at night, in the midst of winter: but their wages in these cases were sent them by Mr. Branch, who was as remarkable for his humanity and justice, as his wife for the opposite qualities. Mary Branch, the daughter, was an exact resemblance of her mother in every part of her diabolical temper.

Mr. Branch dying, and leaving an estate of about three hundred pounds a year, he was no sooner buried than all the servants quitted the family, determined not to live with so tyrannical a mistress; and her character became so notorious that she could obtain no servants but poor creatures who were put out by the parish, or casual vagrants who strolled the country.

It is needless to mention the particulars of the cruelties of this inhuman mother and daughter to their other servants; at whom they used to throw plates, knives, and forks, on any offence, real or supposed: we shall therefore proceed to an account of their trial and execution for the murder of Jane Buttersworth, a poor girl, who had been placed with them by the parish officers.

At the assises held at Taunton, in Somersetshire, in March 1740, Elizabeth Branch, and Mary her daughter, were indicted for the wilful murder of Jane Buttersworth; when the principal evidence against them was in substance as follows.

Ann Sommers, the dairy-maid, deposed that the deceased having been sent for some yeast, and staying longer than was necessary, excused herself to her old mistress on her return, by telling a lie; on which the daughter struck her violently on the head with her fist, and pinched her ears. Then both of them threw her on the ground, and the daughter kneeled on her neck, while the mother whipped her with twigs till the blood ran on the ground, and the daughter taking off one of the girl's shoes, beat her with it in a cruel manner. The deceased cried for mercy, and, after some struggles, ran into the parlour, whither they followed her, and beat her with broomsticks till she fell down senseless, after which the daughter threw

a pail of water on her, and used her with other circumstances of cruelty too gross to mention.

Sommers now went out to milk her cows, and on her return, at the expiration of half an hour, found her mistress sitting by the fire, and the girl lying dead on the floor: but she observed that a clean cap had been put on her head since she went out; and that the blood had ran through it.

Saying she believed the girl was dead, the old mistress gave her abusive language; and the deceased being put to bed, Sommers was ordered to lie with her; which she was obliged to comply with, in the fear of being treated in a manner equally cruel. Sommers was not suffered to go out on the following day; and at night the body was privately buried.

This transaction, added to the character of the mistresses, having raised a suspicion in the neighbourhood, a warrant was issued by the coroner to take up the body, and an inquest being made into the cause of the girl's death, Mr. Salmon, a surgeon, declared that she had received several wounds, almost any one of which would have proved mortal.

The defence made by the prisoners on their trial, was, that the prosecution was malicious; for that the deceased had been subject to fits, in one of which she fell down, and received the bruises which occasioned her death: but bringing no proofs in support of this allegation, the jury found them guilty, and they were sentenced to die.

After conviction they entertained great hopes of a pardon; and presented a petition to the judge; but all the favour they could obtain was a respite for five weeks, in consideration that Mrs. Branch might have some temporal affairs to settle.

The mother appeared for some time little concerned under her misfortunes; but the daughter lamented her unhappy fate, and begged the prayers of every one whom she saw.

A sermon was preached to them on the night before their execution; which seemed to have a great effect on

the mother, who now began seriously to reflect on her approaching exit; and both of them made due preparation for death.

As the country people were violently enraged against them, they were conducted to the place of execution between three and four in the morning, attended only by the gaoler and about half a dozen people, lest they should have been torn in pieces.

When they came to the spot, it was found that the gibbet had been cut down; on which a carpenter was sent for, who immediately put up another; and they were executed before six o'clock, to the disappointment of thousands of people, who had come from all parts of the country, to witness the exit of two such unworthy wretches.

They suffered at Ivelchester, in Somersetshire, on the 3d of May, 1740.

REV. THOMAS HUNTER,

MURDERER.

Executed near Edinburgh, in Scotland,
August 23d, 1700.

THIS atrocious offender was born in the county of Fife, and was the son of a rich-farmer, who sent him to the University of St. Andrew for education. When young Hunter had acquired a good share of classical learning, he was admitted to the degree of master of arts, and began to prosecute his studies in divinity with no small degree of success.

Many of the younger clergymen in Scotland, act as tutors in wealthy and distinguished families, till a proper period arrives for their entering into orders, which they never do till they obtain a benefice. While in this rank of life they bear the name of chaplains; and in this station Hunter lived about two years, in the house of Mr. Gordon, a very eminent merchant, and one of the bailies* of Edinburgh.

Mr. Gordon's family consisted of himself, his lady, two sons and a daughter, a young woman who attended Mrs. Gordon and her daughter, the malefactor in question, some clerks and menial servants. To the care of Hunter was committed the education of the two sons; and for a considerable time he discharged his duty in a manner

* A rank equal to that of alderman of London.

highly satisfactory to the parents, who considered him as a youth of superior genius, and great goodness of heart.

But it happened that a connexion took place between Hunter and the young woman abovementioned, which soon increased to a criminal degree of familiarity; but the correspondence between them was maintained for a considerable time, during which the family was totally ignorant of the affair.

These lovers had gone on undetected so long, that they grew daily less cautious than at the commencement of their amour; and on a particular day, when Mr. and Mrs. Gordon were on a visit, Hunter and his Girl met in their chamber as usual; but having been so incautious as not to make their door fast, the children went into the room, and found them in such a situation as could not admit of any doubt of the nature of their intercourse.

However, as the eldest boy was not ten years of age, no suspicion arose that the children would mention to their parents what had happened: so that the guilty lovers had not the least idea that a discovery would ensue; but when the children were at supper with their parents, they disclosed so much, as left no room to doubt of what had happened.

Hereupon the female servant was directed to quit the house on the following day; but Hunter was continued in the family, after making a proper apology for the crime of which he had been guilty, attributing it to the thoughtlessness of youth, and promising never to offend in the same way again.

From this period Hunter entertained the most inveterate hatred to all the children, on whom he determined in his own mind to wreak the most diabolical vengeance. Nothing less than murder was his intention; but it was a considerable time after he had formed his horrid plan before he had an opportunity of carrying it into execution; which he at length in a great degree effected, as will be seen hereafter.

When the weather was fine, it was his usual custom to walk in the fields, with his pupils, for an hour before dinner; and in these excursions the young lady generally attended

her brothers. At the period immediately preceding the commission of the fatal fact, Mr. Gordon and his family were at their country retreat, very near Edinburgh; and having received an invitation to dine in that city, he and his lady proposed to go thither about the time that Hunter usually took his noon-tide walk with the children. Mrs. Gordon was very anxious for all the children to accompany them on this visit; but this was strenuously opposed by her husband, who would consent that only the little girl should attend them.

By this circumstance, Hunter's intention of murdering all the three children was frustrated; but he held his resolution of destroying the boys while they were yet in his power. With this view he took them into the fields, and sat down as if to repose himself on the grass. This event took place soon after the middle of the month of August, and Hunter was preparing his knife to put a period to the lives of the children, at the very moment they were busied in catching butterflies, and gathering wild flowers.

His knife being sharpened, he called the boys to him, and having reprimanded them for acquainting their father and mother of the scene to which they had been witnesses, he said that he would immediately put them to death. Terrified by this threat, the children ran from him: but he immediately followed and brought them back. He then placed his knee on the body of the one, while he cut the throat of the other with his pen-knife; and then treated the second in the same inhuman manner that he had done the first.

It was within half a mile of the castle of Edinburgh that these horrid murders were committed; and as the deeds were perpetrated in the middle of the day, and in the open fields, it would have been matter of wonder if the murderer had not been immediately taken into custody.

It happened at the critical juncture, that a gentleman was walking on the Castle-hill of Edinburgh, who had a tolerable perfect view of what passed. Alarmed by the incident, the gentleman called some people, who ran with

him to the place where the children were lying dead; but by this time the murderer had advanced towards a river, with a view to drown himself. Those who pursued, came up with him just as he reached the bank of the river; and his person being immediately known to them, a messenger was instantly dispatched to Mr. and Mrs. Gordon, who were at that moment going to dinner with their friend, to inform them of the horrid deed that had been perpetrated by their chaplain.

It is not in the power of language to describe the effects resulting from the communication of this dreadful news: the astonishment of the afflicted father, the agony of the mother's grief, may possibly be conceived, though it cannot be painted.

Hunter being now in custody, it is requisite that we give an account of the proceedings against him, and of the punishment that followed his crime.

By an old Scottish law, it was decreed, that "if a murderer should be taken with the blood of the murdered "person on his clothes, he should be prosecuted in the "sheriff's court, and executed within three days after the "commission of the fact." It was not common to execute this sentence with rigour; but the offender in question had been guilty of crimes of so aggravated a nature, that it was not thought proper to remit any thing of the utmost severity of the law.

Hereupon the prisoner was committed to gaol, and chained down to the floor all night; and on the following day the sheriff issued his precept for the jury to meet; and in consequence of their verdict, Hunter was brought to his trial, when he pleaded guilty; and added to the offence he had already committed, the horrid crime of declaring, that he lamented only the not having murdered Mr. Gordon's daughter as well as his sons.

Hereupon the sheriff passed sentence on the convict, which was to the following purpose: that, "on the following day, he should be executed on a gibbet erected "for that purpose on the spot where he had committed

"the murders; but that, previous to his execution, his "right hand should be cut off with a hatchet, near the "wrist; that then he should be drawn up to the gibbet "by a rope, and, when he was dead, hung in chains be- "tween Edinburgh and Leith, the knife with which he "committed the murders being stuck through his hand, "which should be advanced over his head, and fixed "therewith to the top of the gibbet."

This criminal was executed, in strict conformity to his sentence, on the 22d of August, 1700. But Mr. Gordon soon afterwards petitioned the sheriff, that the body might be removed to a more distant spot, as its hanging on the side of the highway, through which he frequently passed, tended to recite his grief for the occasion that had first given rise to it. This requisition was immediately complied with, and in a few days the body was removed to the skirts of a small village near Edinburgh, named Broughton.

It is equally true and horrid to relate, that, at the place of execution, Hunter closed his life with the following shocking declaration: "There is no God—I do not believe there is "any—or if there is, I hold him in defiance."—Yet this infidel had hitherto been looked upon as a *minister of the Gospel.*

COL. DESPARD.

Vol. I. P. 65.

EDWARD MARCUS DESPARD,

TRAITOR.

Executed on the Roof of the New Gaol, in the Borough, February 21st, 1803.

THIS unfortunate man, who fell a victim to the laws of his country, was born in the year 1750, or 1751, and descended from a very ancient and respectable family in the Queen's County, in Ireland. He was the youngest of six brothers, all of whom, except the eldest, had served either in the army or navy.

In 1766, he entered the army as an ensign in the 5th regiment; in the same regiment he served as a lieutenant, and in the 79th, he served successively as lieutenant, quarter-master, captain-lieutenant, and captain.

From his superior officers he received many marks of approbation, particularly from Gen. Calcraft of the 50th, Gen. Meadows, and the Duke of Northumberland. He had been for the last 20 years detached from any particular corps, and entrusted with important offices.

In 1779, he was appointed chief engineer to the St. Juan expedition, and conducted himself so as to obtain distinguished attention and praise from Capt. Polson, who commanded on that occasion. He also received the thanks of the council and assembly of the island of Jamaica, for the construction of public works there, and was, in consequence of these services, appointed by the governor of Jamaica to be commander in chief of the island of Rattan

and its dependencies, and of the troops there, and to rank as lieutenant-colonel and field-engineer, and commanded as such on the Spanish main, in Rattan, and on the Musquito shore and Bay of Honduras.

After this, at Cape Gracias a Dios he put himself at the head of the inhabitants, who voluntarily solicited him to take the command, and re-took from the Spaniards Black River, the principal settlement of the coast. For this service he received the thanks of the governor, council, and assembly of Jamaica, and of the king himself.

In 1783, he was promoted to the rank of colonel. In 1784, he was appointed first commissioner for settling and receiving the territory ceded to Britain by the sixth article of the definitive treaty of peace with Spain, in 1783. He as a colonel so well discharged his duty, that he was appointed superintendant of his majesty's affairs on the coast of Honduras, which office he held much to the advantage of the crown of England, for he obtained from that of Spain some very important privileges.

The clashing interests, however, of the inhabitants of this coast, produced much discontent, and the colonel was by a party of them accused of various misdemeanors to his majesty's ministers. He now came home, and demanded that his conduct should be investigated; but was, after two years constant attendance on all the departments of government, at last told by ministers, that there was no charge against him worthy of investigation; that his majesty had thought proper to abolish the office of superintendant at Hondras, otherwise he should have been reinstated in it. But he was then, and on every occasion, assured that his services should not be forgotten, but in due time meet their reward.

He and ten associates being indicted for high treason, Feb. 7. 1803, after the preliminary business of choosing the jury was settled, the bill of indictment, which consisted of three counts, was then read. The prosecution was opened by the attorney-general, who in a very eloquent and impartial manner laid before the jury the whole of

the charges. " The eleven prisoners, including Despard, formed a society at the Oakley Arms, in the parish of St. Mary, Lambeth. The most active members were Francis and Wood, and their drift was to overturn the government.

His majesty having intended to meet his parliament a week earlier than he actually did (on the 16th of January, instead of the 23), they designed on that day to carry into effect their plan, by laying restraint upon the king's person, and destroying him. They frequently attempted to seduce soldiers into the association, in which they sometimes succeeded, and sometimes failed.

Francis administered unlawful oaths to those that yielded, and, among others, to Blades and Windsor, giving them at the same time two or three copies of the oath, that they might be enabled to make proselytes in their turn. Windsor soon after becoming dissatisfied, gave information of the conspiracy to a Mr. Bonus, and shewed him a copy of the oath. This gentleman advised him to continue a member of the association, that he might learn whether there were any persons of consequence engaged in it.

On the Friday before the intended assassination of his majesty, a meeting took place, when Broughton prevailed upon two of the associates to go to the Flying Horse, Newington, where they would meet with a *nice man*, which *nice man*, as he stiled him, was the prisoner, Despard."

The first witness was John Statford, clerk to the magistrates of Union-hall, who apprehended Col. Despard at the Oakley Arms. There were about thirty persons in the room, and they were all, except the colonel, of the lowest class, and very meanly dressed. The printed papers found in the room were then produced and read, consisting of the form of the oath, &c. This witness's evidence was corroborated by the depositions of other constables who had accompanied him. Tho. Windsor, the chief witness, declared the manner in which he took the oath, and the plan of the conspiracy.

Having mentioned the intended mode of proceeding, he said the prisoner observed that the attack should be made on the day when his majesty should go to the parliament-house, and that his majesty should be put to death; at the same time the prisoner said, "I have weighed the matter well, and my heart is callous!"

After the destruction of the king, the mail coaches were to be stopped, as a signal to the people in the country that the revolt had taken place in town. The prisoner then desired the witness to meet him the ensuing morning, at half past 11 o'clock, on Tower-hill, and to bring with him four or five intelligent men, to consider upon the best manner for taking the tower and securing the arms.

The witness accordingly met him at the Tyger public-house on Tower-hill, having brought with him two or three soldiers. The prisoner now repeated his declaration, that the king must be put to death—and Wood promised, when the king was going to the house, he would post himself as sentry over the great gun in the park—that he would load it, and fire at his majesty's coach as he passed through the park.

The several meetings, consultations, &c. were further proved by Wm. Campbell, Charles Read, Joseph Walker, Thomas Blades, and other witnesses. Mr. Serjeant Best, in behalf of the prisoner, dwelt upon the incredibility of the witnesses. They were characters of no worth—and he urged that the printed papers which were found were not sufficiently proved to be connected with the prisoner—that the scheme was too romantic ever to be seriously imagined—there were no arms—not a pike, a pistol, or a rusty musket—in fact, the attempt of the heroes of the Oakley Arms as set forth, far exceeded all the wild sallies of Don Quixote. Lord Nelson gave a most excellent character of the prisoner. They were on the Spanish main together—they served together, and he declared him to have been a loyal man, and a brave officer. On cross-examination, his lordship said he had not seen him since the year 1780. Sir Alured Clarke and Sir

Evan Nepean bore testimony of his having been a zealous officer.

Mr. Gurney, the other counsel for the prisoner, addressed the jury in an able speech; and the Solicitor-General having replied on the part of the Crown, Lord Ellenborough began to sum up nearly as follows;

" Gentlemen of the jury,

" The prisoner stands charged with high treason, of three sorts, not very different in their nature—1st, for compassing the death of the king—next, for compassing to seize his person—and 3dly, for conspiring to depose him. The first of these is treason, by the statute of Edward III.—the two last, by a recent statue of the present reign.—Eight distinct overt acts are stated as evidences of this intention. Gentlemen, the overt acts are the holding conversations for effecting those malignant purposes of the heart. The defendant's counsel say, that the proof consists only of words, and that it cannot be treason. If it consisted only of loose words, the ebullition of an irritated or crazy mind, it would not be treason, because it would be too much to infer such a purpose as the destruction of the king from words so spoken. But when words are spoken at a public meeting, and addressed to others, exciting and persuading them to that purpose, it never was doubted by any one English lawyer—it never will be doubted, but that they amount to treason. Another subject upon which I wish to say a few words is, the nature of evidence by accomplices. That he is a competent witness, upon whose testimony you may found a conclusion, cannot be doubted. If it were not so, it would be a dereliction of duty in the judges sitting here, and those who have formerly sat in courts of justice, not to have repelled such witnesses from the oath, and have told the jury that they were not fit to be credited. But they are always received; and although sullied with the contami-

nation of the crime which they impute to others, they are credible, though their testimony must be received with caution." His lordship here read verbatim the whole of the evidence taken throughout the day. "Now, gentlemen, this is the whole evidence; see how it applies to the charge—first, with respect to an overt act committed within the county; it is proved at the Oakley Arms, and at the Flying Horse—that point of law is therefore satisfied. The only remaining consideration is, whether you will believe the evidence of Bales, Windsor, Emblyn, and Francis, or any of them. You have heard the high character given of the prisoner by a man, on whom to pronounce an eulogium were to waste words, but you are to consider whether a change has not taken place since the period he speaks of."

The jury, after about half an hour's conversation, returned the verdict, Guilty, but earnestly recommended him to mercy, on account of his former good character, and the services he had rendered his country. The prisoner, during the whole of the trial, appeared very composed, nor did he exhibit any marks of agitation when the verdict was returned.

On the following Wednesday, the trial of the twelve other prisoners took place, when the same circumstances, by chiefly the same witness, being repeated, nine were found guilty, three of whom were recommended to mercy.

The usual question was then asked each separately, "What he had to say that sentence should not be pronounced?" When Colonel Despard remarked, that he had been tried and convicted on the evidence of such men as ought not to be listened to; he was charged with seducing certain soldiers—nothing could be more false; he declared he never had the smallest conversation with them on the subject.

Lord Ellenborough, in a style of awful solemnity, highly befitting the melancholy but just occasion, addressed the prisoners nearly to the following purport:—"You, Ed-

ward Marcus Despard—you, John Wood—you, Thomas Broughton—you, John Francis—you, Thomas Newman—you, Daniel Tyndall—you, James Sedgwick Wratten—you, William Lander—you, Anthony Graham—and you, John M'Namara, have been severally indicted for conspiring against his Majesty's person, his crown, and government, for the purposes of subverting the same, and changing the government of this realm. To this indictment you have pleaded Not Guilty, and put yourselves for trial upon God and your country, which country has found you guilty. After a long, patient, and, I hope, just and impartial trial, you have been all of you severally convicted, by a most respectable jury of your country, upon the several crimes laid to your charge. In the course of evidence upon your trial, such disclosures have been made, as to prove, beyond the possibility of doubt, that the objects of your atrocious, abominable, and traiterous conspiracy were, to overthrow the government, and to seize upon, and destroy the sacred persons of, our august and revered sovereign, and the illustrious branches of his royal house, which some of you, by the most solemn bond of your oath of allegiance, were pledged, and all of you, as his Majesty's subjects, were indispensably bound, by your duty, to defend; to overthrow that constitution, its established freedom, and boasted usages, which have so long maintained among us, that just and rational equality of rights, and security of property, which have been for so many ages the envy and admiration of the world: and to erect upon its ruins a wild system of anarchy and bloodshed, having for its object the subversion of all property, and the massacre of its proprietors; the annihilation of all legitimate authority and established order—for such must be the import of that promise held out by the leaders of this atrocious conspiracy, of ample provision for the families of "those heroes who should fall in the struggle." The more effectually to ensure success in those evil machinations, and to encourage those who were to be seduced to their support, endea-

vours have been made by you and your accomplices to seduce from their allegiance to their sovereign, the soldiers of his Majesty—endeavours which, though they appear to have been in too many instances successful, yet I hope falsely said to be in that extent stated in evidence. Equally false, I hope, has been another assertion, that two-thirds of the inhabitants of this country were ready for a change, and prepared to support and adopt such measures as were likely to be most effectual for obtaining it—a change, by which no less was contemplated than the subversion of all the sources of law, order and public justice, and the substitution of massacre, anarchy, and all their dire effects. It has, however, pleased that Divine Providence, which has mercifully watched over the safety of this nation, to defeat your wicked and abominable purpose, by arresting your projects in their dark and dangerous progress, and thus averting that danger which your machinations had suspended over our heads; and by your timely detection, seizure, and submittal to public justice, to afford time for the many thousands of his majesty's innocent and loyal subjects the intended victims of your atrocious and sanguinary purpose, to escape that danger which so recently menaced them, and which, I trust, is not yet become too formidable for utter defeat. Happily for the families and the persons of thousands of your wicked and deluded accomplices, your detection has in time, I hope, served to avert the calamities in which they would have inveloped themselves, as well as their innocent fellow-citizens. The vigilance of that government, unceasingly directed to the public security, was not to be eluded by the dark and mysterious secrecy under which you endeavoured to mask your wicked designs. Your very endeavours to propagate and promote your projects have been the sources of your defeat; and thus it has happened, that when you imagined your vile purposes to be nearest their completion, they have been fortunately discovered by the very means through which you intended to put them in execution: and thus the in-

tended victims who were on the eve of being involved in all the horrors of your projects, have fresh cause to acknowledge with gratitude the goodness of that all-provident God, who has thus timely, and I hope for ever, put a stop to your diabolical plans. As to you, deluded victims of a desperate and abandoned conspiracy, before I conclude the awful task which remains for me to perform, I wish to say a few words to you on the enormity of those crimes which have brought you to your present melancholy and ignominious situation. And first, you, Edward Marcus Despard, in whom the dignified pride of birth, the advantages of a liberal education, and the habits of intercourse in that rank in which your conduct was once so highly honourable, and from whom the testimony borne of your former conduct by the honourable companions of your earlier pursuits, adduced in this court as witness for your character, should have induced us to expect widely different conduct and principles. How grossly have you misapplied and abused the talents and opportunities which you enjoyed for honourable distinction in society! and how have you degraded yourself to the association of those unfortunate and wretched companions, by whom you are now surrounded, in whose ignominious fate you so justly share, but who are the unhappy victims of your seductive persuasion and example. I do not wish, at this awful moment, to urge any thing to you and the degrading companions by whom you are surrounded, to sharpen the bitterness of your feelings under the ignominy of your fate, but I would most earnestly and sincerely wish to impress your mind, during the short period of your remaining life, with a due sense of your awful situation, and of the criminal conduct which has involved you in your present ignominious fate: I would earnestly entreat you zealously to endeavour to subdue the callous insensibility of heart, of which, in an illfated moment, you have boasted, and regain that sanative affection of the mind, which may prepare your soul for that salvation,

which, by the infinite mercy of God, I beseech of that God you may obtain. And as to you, other unhappy prisoners, the wretched victims of his seduction and example, to what a dreadful and ignominious fate have you brought yourselves, and what sorrow and affliction have been entailed upon your wretched families, by the atrocity of your crimes, and your purposed and sanguinary attempts to subvert that happy constitution and government, under the mild protection of which you might still have continued to pursue industrious avocations, and enjoy with comfort the fruits of your honest and peaceful labours; and the unexampled mildness and merciful tendency of whose laws you have this day experienced in a long, a patient, a fair, and most impartial trial, before that respectable and discerning jury, who have convicted you on the most uncontroverted evidence of your guilt. May the awful and impressive example of your untimely fate prove a warning to your wicked associates and accomplices in every quarter of this realm, and induce them to abandon those machinations which have brought you to this disgraceful catastrophe! May they learn to avoid your fate by cultivating the blessings of that constitution which you have calumniated and endeavoured to subvert, and by pursuing their honest and industrious avocations, and avoiding political cabals and seditious conspiracies, avoid also those dreadful consequences in which they themselves would most probably be amongst the first victims. The same earnest advice I have just given your unfortunate leader and seducer, I now offer to you, which is, to make the best use of the short period of life now remaining, to make your peace with an offended God for your crimes, and seek mercy in another life, which the interest of your fellow-creatures will not suffer to be extended to here! The only thing remaining for me is the painful task of pronouncing against you, and each of you, the awful sentence which the law denounces against your crime, which is, that you, and each of you (here his lordship named the prisoners severally) be taken

to the place from whence you came, and from thence you are to be drawn on hurdles, to the place of execution, where you are to be hanged by the neck, but not until you are dead, for while you are still living your bodies are to be taken down, your bowels torn out and burnt before your faces; your heads are to be then cut off, and your bodies divided each into four quarters, and your heads and quarters to be then at the king's disposal; and may the Almighty God have mercy on your souls!"

On Saturday afternoon, Feb. 19, 1803, was received the information that the warrant for execution, to take place on the following Monday, was made out. It was sent to the keeper of the New Gaol in the Borough at six o'clock on Saturday evening, and included the names of Col. Despard, Tho. Broughton, John Francis, Arthur Graham, John Macnamara, John Wood, and James Sedgwick Wratten; the three other prisoners, Newman, Tyndal, and Lander, recommended by the jury to mercy, having been respited.

As soon as the warrant for execution was received, it was communicated to the unhappy persons by the keeper of the prison, Mr. Ives, with as much tenderness and humanity as the awful nature of the case required. We believe it was expected by all—by all it was received with resignation and fortitude, Col. Despard observed, upon its being communicated to him, that the time was short; yet he had not had, from the first, any strong expectation that the recommendation of the jury would be effectual. The mediation of Lord Nelson, and a petition to the Crown, were tried, but Col Despard was convinced, according to report, that they would be unavailing.

From the moment of his conviction, he had begun to prepare himself for that last moment that was to close all sublunary scenes upon him for ever! During the whole of the interval between the period of passing and the executing his sentence, he behaved with composure.—Much

of his time was employed in writing, some in reading, and the greater part with his wife, Mrs. Despard

Soon after the warrant was received, all papers, and every thing he possessed, were immediately taken from the colonel. He was strictly searched, to discover whether he had any knife or means of self-destruction concealed about him, and every thing that was thought might enable him to put an end to his existence, was conveyed out of his reach. There is no reason to suppose he had the slightest design of committing suicide; but these are the usual and necessary precautionary measures.

Mrs. Despard was greatly affected when she first heard his fate was sealed, but afterwards recovered her fortitude. Accompanied by another lady, she had a last interview with him on the sunday preceding his execution, about three o'clock. The lady wept bitterly, but first Mrs. Despard, and then the colonel, reproached her with her weakness. Mr. and Mrs. Despard bore up with great firmness, even in parting; and when she got into a coach, as it drove off she waved her handkerchief out of the window. The other prisoners bore their fate with equal hardihood, but conducted themselves with less solemnity than the colonel.—Their wives, &c. were allowed to take a farewell of them on the same day, and the scene was truly distressing!

Five of these men attended on Sunday morning, a chapel within the gaol, used for its inhabitants only. Macnamara, being a Roman Catholic, did not attend; neither did the colonel, who had constantly refused the assistance of a clergyman.

At day-light on Sunday morning, the drop, scaffold, and gallows, on which they were to be executed, were erected on the top of the gaol. The erection of the apparatus of death gave full information of the approaching event, and great crowds continued to arrive and retire, viewing the place the whole day. All the Bow-street patrole, and many other peace-officers were on duty all day and night, and the military near London were drawn up close to it.

Mrs. Despard, after having taken leave of her husband at three in the afternoon, came again about five o'clock; but it was thought adviseable to spare the colonel the pangs of a second parting, and she was therefore not admitted into the prison. She evinced some indignation at the refusal, and expressed a strong opinion with respect to the cause for which her husband was to suffer.

After Mrs. Despard had left the colonel, at three o'clock, he walked up and down his cell for some time, seemingly more agitated than he had been at the period of taking leave of his wife. Between six and seven in the evening, he threw himself on the bed, and fell into a short sleep. At eight o'clock he awoke, and addressed one of the officers of the prison, who was with him, in these words:—"Me—they shall receive no information from me—no, not for all the gifts, the gold, and jewels in the possession of the crown!" He then composed himself, and remained silent. These expressions might induce some to suppose that endeavours had been made to prevail upon him to make disclosures. Whether this was the case or not, we are not able to say.

Sir Richard Ford was at the prison on Sunday, and we believe saw the colonel and all the other prisoners—but we have not heard that his visit had for its object to induce them to make any confessions. In the course of the evening, the colonel was visited by his solicitor, who came to ask him where he wished to be buried? He was silent for some minutes—and at length replied, he believed several of his countrymen were buried at Pancras—he therefore desired to be buried there.

When Mr. Ives went to communicate the warrant for execution to two of the prisoners, Wood and Graham, thay said, they wished to have some conversation with him. On Sunday evening he went to them, attended by the clergyman, Mr. Winkworth.—Graham then entered into a long conversation with him, upon the motives of the meeting at the public-house where they were apprehended; but we do not learn that he threw any new light

upon the subject, or made any discoveries of importance.

Macnamara spent the whole of the night in prayer. The Roman Catholic priest left him at a late hour of the night, and came again early in the morning. Graham, Wratten, and another (Wood we believe) were the greaterpart of the night engaged in a similar manner. They were dissenters. Broughton and Francis were protestants. Col. Despard slept from three to half past four; the remainder of the night he passed in walking up and down his cell. The rest of the prisoners slept about two hours.

All the arrangements for the execution were settled on Sunday by Sir Rd. Ford, and the sheriffs of Surrey, with the government and the magistrates. Sir Richard slept that night at a Mr. Smith's, in order to be near the prison.

At four o'clock the following morning, Monday, February 21st, the drum beat at the Horse-guards, as a signal for the cavalry to assemble. We understand that four regiments were on duty. Two troops of horse were stationed at the Obelisk; others patroled the roads from the Obelisk to the Elephant and Castle, and down the Borough road. The military occupied their station as soon as it was day-light.

It was not till past five o'clock that persons began to pour in any numbers along the Westminster and City-roads to Horsemonger-lane.

At half past six the prison-bell rang, the signal for unlocking the cells. Mr. Winkworth, the clergyman, and Mr. Griffith, the Roman Catholic priest (the same gentleman who attended Quigley when he was executed), came to the prison, and were immediately admitted to the prisoners.

At seven o'clock five of them, Broughton, Francis, Graham, Wood, and Wratten went into the chapel. They attended to the prayers with great earnestness, but at the same time without seeming to lose that firmness they had displayed since their trial. Before they received the sacrament, four of them confessed they had done wrong,

but not to the extent charged against them by the evidence. The fifth, Graham, said he was innocent of the charges brought against him, but had attended two meetings, the second at the instigation of Francis. It was Emblyn, he added, who called on him to go to the meeting, by Francis's desire.

For some time the clergywan refused to administer the sacrament to Francis, because he persisted in declaring he had been guilty of no crime. The clergyman said to him, "You admit you attended meetings?" He replied, "Yes." "You knew they were for the purpose of overturning the constitution and government of the country. I by no means wish you to enter into particulars I only wish you to acknowledge generally." Francis then smiled (it seemed to be the natural character of his countenance), and answered, "I admit I have done wrong in attending those meetings."

The clergyman then asked each of them "how they found themselves?" Francis, Wood, Broughton, and Wratten said, "they were never happier in their lives." Graham remained silent. The sacrament was then administered to them. The service in the chapel lasted three quarters of an hour.

Before it was over Colonel Despard and Macnamara were brought down from their cells; their irons were knocked off, and their arms and hands bound with ropes. Despard walked up and down before the chapel door, but did not enter the chapel. Macnamara walked about in earnest conversation with the Roman Catholic priest, and with a book in his hand.

Whilst Despard was at the chapel door, the sheriff (Pepper) addressed himself very humanely to him, and asked him if he could render him any service. The colonel thanked him, and replied that he could not. The sheriff added something in a low tone of voice, which, it is supposed, related to Mrs. Despard.

Whilst the clergyman was gone out of the chapel to prepare for the sacrament, the five prisoners rose on hear-

ing the colonel's irons being knocked off. The executioner then tied their arms and hands in the same manner as he had before bound the colonel and Macnamara.

Notice was then given to the sheriff that they were ready. The colonel, who stood the first, retired behind, and motioned to Francis (who was making way for him) to go before him. It is the body of a small cart, on which two trusses of clean straw are laid: it was drawn by two horses. The procession moved in the following order:

The Sheriff of Surrey,
The Clergyman in his gown,
Mr Ives, the Keeper, with a white wand,
High Constable,
Other Constables,
The executioner with a drawn sword.

Macnamara and Graham were first put into the hurdle, and drawn to the lodge, where the inner gates were opened, and they were conveyed to the stair-case that leads up to the scaffold. The hurdle then returned, and brought

Broughton and Wratten,
then
Wood and Francis.

Last of all, Col. Despard was put in it alone.

Macnamara seemed intent upon the book in his hand. Graham remained silent. Broughton jumped into the hurdle, smiled, and looked up to the scaffold. Wood and Francis both smiled, and they all surveyed the awful scene with much composure. Despard shook hands with a gentleman, as he got into the hurdle, and looked up to the scaffold with a smile.

As soon as they had all been conveyed in the hurdle to the stair-case that leads to the scaffold, they were escorted up one by one—the sheriff, Sir R. Ford, the clergyman, Mr. Winkworth, and the Roman Catholic clergyman, Mr Griffith, preceding them.

Seven coffins, or shells, which had been previously placed in a room under the scaffold, were brought up and placed on the platform, on which the drop was erected. A bag of sawdust, to catch the blood when the heads were severed from their bodies, was placed beside them.—The block was near the scaffold. There were about 100 spectators on the platform. The greatest order and silence were observed.

As soon as the prisoners were placed on the hurdle, St. George's bell tolled for some time. It was about half past eight when the prisoners were brought up to the scaffold one by one. As soon as the cord was fastened round the neck of one, the second was brought up, and so on till the cords were fastened round the necks of all the seven.

Macnamara was first brought up; he still held a book in his hand; and when the cord was placed round his neck, he exclaimed, with the greatest devotion, "Lord Jesus have mercy upon me! Oh, Lord, look down with pity upon me!" Graham came second; he looked pale and ghastly, but spoke not. Wratten was the third: he ascended the scaffold with much firmness. Broughton, the fourth, smiled as he ran up the scaffold stairs, but as soon as the rope was fastened round his neck, he turned pale, and smiled no more. He joined in prayer with much earnestness. Wood was the fifth—Francis the sixth. Francis ascended the scaffold with a composure, which he preserved to the last. Wood and Broughton were equally composed.

Of all of them, Francis was the best looking—tall, handsome, and well made. He and Wood were dressed in soldiers' uniform; the rest were in coloured clothes. Col. Despard was brought up the last, dressed in boots, a

dark brown great coat, his hair unpowdered; he ascended the scaffold with great firmness, and his countenance underwent not the slightest change while the awful ceremony of fastening the rope round his neck, and placing the cap on his head, was performing: he looked at the multitude assembled with perfect calmness.

The clergyman, who ascended the scaffold after the prisoners were tied up, spoke to him a few words as he passed. The colonel bowed, and thanked him. The ceremony of fastening the prisoners being finished, the colonel advanced as near as he could to the edge of the scaffold, and made the following speech to the multitude:—

"Fellow Citizens,

"I come here as you see, after having served my country—faithfully, honourably, and usefully served it, for thirty years and upwards, to suffer death upon a scaffold for a crime of which I protest I am not guilty. I solemnly declare that I am no more guilty of it than any of you who may be now hearing me: But though his majesty's ministers know as well as I do that I am not guilty, yet they avail themselves of a legal pretext to destroy a man, because he has been a friend to truth, to liberty and justice,——"[There was a considerable huzza from part of the populace the nearest to him, but who, from the height of the scaffold from the ground, could not, for a certainty, distinctly hear what was said. The colonel proceeded]——"because he has been a friend to the poor and distressed. But, citizens, I hope and trust, notwithstanding my fate, and the fate of those who no doubt will soon follow me, that the principles of freedom, of humanity, and of justice, will finally triumph over falshood, tyranny, and delusion, and every principle hostile to the interests of the human race. And now, having said this, I have little more to add——"[The colonel's voice seemed to falter a little here—he paused a moment, as if he had meant to say something more, but had forgotten it.] He then

concluded in the following manner: " I have little more to add, except to wish you all health, happiness, and freedom, which I have endeavoured, as far as was in my power, to procure for you, and for mankind in general."

The colonel spoke in a firm and audible tone of voice: he left off sooner than was expected. There was no public expression either of approbation or disapprobation given when he had concluded his address. As soon as the colonel had ceased speaking, the clergyman prayed with five of the prisoners. Macnamara prayed earnestly with the clergyman of his own persuasion. Despard surveyed the populace, and made a short answer, which was not distinctly heard, to some few words addressed to him by Francis, who was next him.

The clergyman now shook hands with each of them. Col. Despard bowed, and seemed to thank him as he shook hands with him. The executioners pulled the caps over the faces of the unhappy persons, and descended the scaffold. Most of them exclaimed, " Lord Jesus receive our souls!" The last and most dreadful part of the ceremony was now to be performed. The most awful silence prevailed, and the thousands present, all with one accord, stood uncovered.

At seven minutes before nine o'clock the signal was given, the platform dropped, and they were all launched into eternity!! The colonel had not one struggle: twice he opened and clenched his hands together convulsively—he stirred no more. Macnamara, Graham, Wood, and Wratten, were motionless after a few struggles. Broughton and Francis struggled violently for some moments after all the rest were without motion. The executioner pulled their legs, to put an end to their pain more speedily.

After hanging about half an hour, till they were quite dead, they were cut down. Col. Despard was first cut down, his body placed upon saw-dust, and his head upon

a block; after his coat had been taken off, his head was severed from his body by persons engaged on purpose to perform that ceremony. The executioner then took the head by the hair, and carrying it to the edge of the parapet on the right hand, held it up to the view of the populace, and exclaimed "This is the head of a traitor, Edward Marcus Despard." The same ceremony was performed on the parapet at the left hand. There was some hooting and hissing when the colonel's head was exhibited. His remains were now put into the shell that had been prepared for them.

The other prisoners were then cut down, their heads severed from their bodies, and exhibited to the populace, with the same exclamation of, "This is the head of another traitor. The bodies were then put into their different shells, and delivered to their friends for interment.

The populace were struck with the appearance of Macnamara, who, on ascending the scaffold, bowed. Many of them were acquainted with him. They pitied the situation of his wife, to whom he had been married but a short time. It was at first thought he was Col. Despard.

The crowd at the entrance of Horsemonger-lane was immense; as the time of execution drew near, the people from all parts came with such force as to bear down all opposition. Those who had been in dry situations, were pushed into the middle of the road, where they stood almost up to the knees in mud. Several lost their shoes by the continual pushing and jostling. Many fainted, both men and women; of the latter, however, there were but few.

While the heads were exhibiting, the populace took off their hats. The execution was over by ten o'clock, and the populace soon after dispersed quietly. There was not the least tendency to riot or disturbance. The precautions, however, taken by government, were certainly proper. A sky-rocket was sent to the keeper of the prison to be let off, as a signal to the military, in case of any disturbance.

The body of Col. Despard having lain at Mount-row, opposite the Asylum, was taken away on the first of March, by his friends, with a hearse and three mourning coaches, and interred near the north door of St. Paul's Cathedral, St. Paul's church-yard. The crowd was great; but when the grave was covered in, the people immediately and quietly dispersed. The city marshal was present, lest there should be any disturbance on the occasion.

CHARLES DREW,

PARRICIDE.

Executed near ST. EDMUND'S-BURY, April 9th, 1740.

THIS offender was the son of an attorney of great practice at Long-Melford in Suffolk; who, though a man of good fortune, was of so unaccountable a disposition that he neglected the education of his son to such a degree that the boy was brought up in the most astonishing degree of ignorance*; so that, though his person was agreeable, and his talents not of the inferior kind, there was no probability of his ever making a respectable figure in life.

* There is another book of this kind which says that Charles "received a liberal education;" but all the authentic accounts affirm the contrary; and agree that he was brought up in almost total ignorance.

Mr. Drew the elder quarrelled with, and lived separate from, his wife, and behaved in the most reserved and unfriendly manner to his children, who were five daughters, besides the unhappy son who murdered him.

When the son arrived at years of maturity he became acquainted with one Elizabeth Boyer, who submitted to his solicitations, but was a woman of so much art, that most people thought he would marry her; and when she urged him to it, he said, "Betsey, let us stay a little "longer: it will be worse for us both if I do it now, for "my father will certainly disinherit me:" to which she replied "I wish somebody would shoot the old dog."

This discourse was heard to pass between them in the month of January, 1740, and Mr. Drew was found murdered in his house on the first of February following. On inquiry into the affair, it was suspected by many that Mr. Drew was shot with a gun which had been lent to his son by Mrs. Boyer; and though no prosecution was commenced against her, there was every reason to imagine that she had been the chief instigator of his committing so atrocious a crime.

Charles having been to the assizes at Chelmsford, fell into company with some smugglers, among whom was one Humphreys, a hardened villain, calculated for the execution of any desperate enterprize. With this man he held a conference; telling him that he would inform him of a scheme by which he might make his fortune, if he would meet him at Mrs. Boyer's lodgings.

Humphreys, accordingly met him; when Drew promised to settle two hundred pounds a year on him if he would murder his father; and likewise give him a considerable sum in money. Humphreys hesitated some time: but at length consenting to the horrid proposal, they went together towards the house, having a gun loaded with slugs, about eleven at night, on the 31st of January.

From the best accounts we have of this transaction, it seems as if it was agreed that young Drew was to stand at a distance, while Humphreys was to knock at the door,

and ask for the old man; and to shoot him when he came to speak to him; but his courage failing him when he came near the spot, he threw down the gun, saying he would have no concern in the murder.

On this young Drew commanded him to keep silence, on pain of death; and taking up the gun, went to the door, and when his father opened it, shot him dead on the spot.

Having committed this horrid parricide, he went away with Humphreys, to whom he said, "The job is done;" on which Humphreys went to Dunmow in Essex, where he had appointed to meet some smugglers that night; and after that travelled to London.

An inquest being held on the body of the deceased; and Humphreys having heard that he was suspected, he returned into the country, and was apprehended: but did not impeach Drew till some time afterwards, when the interception of some letters discovered the nature of the connexion that had subsisted between them.

Humphreys deposed on the trial, that meeting the prisoner about a fortnight after the murder was committed, he asked him if he was not concerned at the death of his father; to which he replied in the negative, saying, "If "he had lived he would have ruined the family." Humphreys likewise endeavoured to exculpate himself from having had any share in the murder: but how far he is to be credited in this matter our readers will judge.

Young Drew going to London made application for the king's pardon to any person except him who had actually murdered his father; in consequence of which an advertisement to that purpose was inserted in the London Gazette, signed by the secretary of state; and another advertisement followed it, in which Drew himself offered a reward of a hundred pounds, on conviction of the murderer. This procedure appears evidently to have been intended to take off all suspicion from himself, though he meant not to fix it on Humphreys.

This latter being apprehended on suspicion, gave such an indifferent account of the transaction, that he was ordered to be kept in custody: and while he was in prison Drew sent him twenty pounds, with the promise of a hundred more.

After Humphreys was committed, the suspicion of his guilt grew stronger, and was corroborated by several informations. This gave Drew great uneasiness: he took the utmost pains to suppress all farther informations, and even to destroy the credibility of those already made. He publicly declared that Humphreys was not the man who shot his father, and threatened to prosecute the officer who apprehended him.

In the mean time Drew resided in London, where he changed his name to that of Roberts, and corresponded with Humphreys, who had assumed the name of John Smith. Some of the letters falling into the hands of Timothy Drew, Esq. a namesake only, he went to London in search of the murderer; and after repeated inquiries, was told that he lodged in Sheer-Lane, whither he went, and inquired for him by the name of Roberts.

The people of the house said that they had no lodgers: but the gentleman, who had a magistrate's warrant for apprehending the offender, insisted on searching the house; but the search was made in vain.

On this he went to several bagnios, and at length to Eastmead's, in Leicester-Fields, where he inquired for Mr. Roberts. It should seem that Drew had given orders to be denied; for the landlord said that all the gentlemen who had lodged there the preceding night were gone. Mr. Timothy Drew observing the landlord whisper to one of the waiters, suspected the truth of this declaration, called for a pint of wine, and asked the waiter to drink with him.

After some conversation, he raised his voice, and in a positive manner declared that he knew Mr. Roberts was in the house, but that his real name was Charles Drew, and that he had murdered his father; and he threatened

to have all the people in the house apprehended for concealing a murderer.

The authoritative manner in which he spoke induced the waiter to confess that the gentleman was in the house; and the unwelcome visitor being introduced to him, said that he had a warrant to apprehend him, and take him before Justice De Veil, on a charge of having murdered his father.

Hereupon he was conducted to the house of the above-mentioned magistrate; and, after an examination of above six hours, was committed to Newgate under a strong guard.

During his residence in the prison he offered, and actually gave, to Jonathan Keate, the turnkey, a bond of half his fortune, on the condition of permitting him to escape, and accompanying him to France: and for the farther security of Keate, he executed a bond to him for the payment of a thousand pounds.

The turnkey seemed to comply, and the time was fixed on for their departure; but the man having informed Mr. Akerman, the keeper, of the progress of the affair, Drew was removed into the old condemned-hold, where a guard was placed over him night and day.

On the approach of the assizes, he was sent to the gaol of St. Edmund's-Bury; and Humphreys being admitted an evidence, Drew was convicted after a trial of several hours.

After conviction he seemed not to have a proper sense of the enormity of the crime of which he had been guilty; and would have attributed it to his father's ill treatment of him. He said that his father denied him necessary money for his expences; and his having refused to make over an estate to him, was the first instigation to his committing the horrid crime.

He was visited by his sisters, who carefully avoided reflecting on him; and did all in their power to console him in his unhappy situation.

He was hanged near St. Edmund's-Bury, on the 9th of April, 1740, amidst the greatest crowd of spectators that were almost ever assembled on such a melancholy occasion in that part of the country.

He seemed to part with life with evident signs of reluctance, begging the clergyman who attended him to continue the devotions to the last possible moment. This man suffered in the 25th year of his age.

WILLIAM HAWKE,

HIGHWAYMAN.

Executed at TYBURN, July 1st, 1774.

THIS offender was born at Uxbridge, in the county of Middlesex. On the death of his father, he was hired to draw beer at a public-house on Saffron-hill. Contracting an acquaintance with some abandoned people who frequented an alehouse in St. Giles's, he was persuaded to join them in committing depredations upon the public.

At length he commenced highwayman, and became an accomplice of James Feld. *(See Field.)* Field and Hawke were transported to America: and returning to England nearly at the same period, they again became associates in committing robberies on the highway. Hawke and Field being apprehended together, the former escaped from Tothill-fields bridewell, and got to

France; but the other suffered the sentence of the law.

Upon his return to England, he committed a surprising number of the most daring robberies: and several months elapsed before the thief-takers knew him to be the man by whom the roads about London were so dangerously infested.

Information being given to Mr. Smith, the keeper of Tothill-fields bridewell, that Hawke's wife had been to Uxbridge on a party of pleasure, he sought the driver of the coach in which she was conveyed, and learned from him that Hawke lodged in Shoe-lane,

The following morning, Mr. Smith, Mr. Bond, Mr. Leigh, and some other persons in the service of Sir John Fielding, went to Shoe-lane. Bond going up two pair of stairs, entered the front room, and there discovering Hawke slumbering in bed, threw himself across the highwayman, but Hawke rolling the sheet round Bond's head, reached at a pistol that was under the pillow, at which instant Smith entered, and caught hold of his hand. With much difficulty Hawke was secured: and being put into a coach he said, that his misfortunes were in some measure alleviated by the consideration that no life was lost, for he was provided with several loaded pistols and had formed the resolution of firing upon every man who should attempt to take him in custody.

Being conveyed to the public office in Bow-street, a great number of persons were bound to prosecute, and he was committed to Newgate.

At the next sessions at the Old Bailey, he was arranged on an indictment for robbing Mr. Hart of a small sum of money. Mr. Hart and Captain Cunningham were stopped in the Fulham stage, a little beyond Knightsbridge, by the prisoner, who demanded their money. The Captain refused to resign his property; and Hawke threatened to fire, and pointing his pistol at the Captain, he said, "Fire away and be d—n'd!" On which the robber discharged his pistol, and the ball passed between the Captain's shoulder and his coat. Mr. Hart then delivered a

few shillings; and Captain Cunningham, getting out of the coach in the interim, seized the bridle of the highwayman's horse, when he discharged a second pistol. He then remounted, but did not ride away for some minutes, during which interval the Captain employed himself in picking up stones and throwing them at him.

At the time of Hawke's trial Captain Cunningham was abroad, but Mr. Hart's evidence was so positive, clear, and circumstantial, that no doubt remained as to the guilt of the prisoner, who was therefore sentenced to suffer death.

While under sentence of death, in Newgate, his behaviour was such as may be called decent, but not penitential.

While his irons were knocking off on the morning of execution, one of his acquaintance addressed him thus: "How do you do, Billy? Will you have some flowers?" Hereupon Hawke said, "I am pretty well, I thank you. How is Harry Wright? (one of the then turnkeys of Tothill-fields bridewell,) he has been ill of late, I hear." And then, while the man held the nosegay, he picked out a flower, and with great composure placed it in a buttonhole of his coat.

When the cart was preparing to be driven from under the gallows, he threw of both his shoes; and when he found it move, he collected his utmost strength, and leaped up, so that his neck was instantly dislocated.

He suffered at Tyburn, on the 1st of July, 1774.

JOHN HAWKINS,
AND
GEORGE SIMPSON,

HIGHWAYMEN.

Executed at TYBURN, May 21st, 1723.

AS the crime for which these malefactors suffered is very enormous in its own nature, and their transactions made a great noise in the world at the time they took place, we propose to give a particular account of them.

JOHN HAWKINS was the son of a poor farmer at Staines, who not being able to afford to educate him properly, he went into the service of a gentleman, which he soon quitted, and lived as a waiter at the Red Lion at Brentford; but leaving this place, he again engaged as a gentleman's servant.

After living in different families, he became Butler to Sir Dennis Dutry, and was distinguished as a servant of very creditable appearance. Indeed his person was uncommonly graceful, and he was remarkably vain of it. He used to frequent gaming-tables two or three nights in a week, a practice which led to that ruin which finally befel him.

About this time Sir Dennis had been robbed of a considerable quantity of plate; and as Hawkins's mode of life was very expensive, it was suspected that he was the thief; for which reason he was discharged without the advantage of a good character.

Being thus destitute of the means of subsistence he had recourse to the highway, and his first expedition was to Hounslow-Heath, where he took eleven pounds from the passengers in a coach; but such was his attachment to gaming, that he repaired directly to London, where he lost it all.

He continued to rob alone for some time, losing at the gaming-houses what he obtained at so much risk; and he then engaged to rob with other highwaymen; but the same fate still attended him: he lost by gaming what he got by thieving, and was frequently so reduced as to dine at an eating-house, and then sneak off without paying his reckoning.

Several of Hawkins's old companions having met their deserts at the gallows, he became acquainted with one Wilson, a youth of good education, who had been articled to a solicitor in chancery; but had neglected his business through an attachment to the gaming-tables. These associates having committed several robberies in conjunction, were tried for one of them; but acquitted for want of evidence; though Wilson, in an account published after Hawkins's condemnation, confesses they were guilty.

Immediately after this, Wilson went down to his mother, who lived at Whitby, in Yorkshire, and continued with her for about a year, and then coming to London, lived with a gentleman of the law: but having lost his money in gaming, renewed his acquaintance with Hawkins, who was now concerned with a new gang of villains; but one of these being apprehended, impeached the rest, which soon dispersed the gang, but not till some of them had made their exit at Tyburn; on which Hawkins was obliged to conceal himself for a considerable time; but at length he ventured to rob a gentleman on Finchley-Common, and shot one of the servants so that he died on the spot.

His next attack was on the Earl of Burlington and Lord Bruce, in Richmond-Lane, from whom they took about twenty pounds, two gold watches, and a sapphire ring.

For this ring a reward of 100l. was offered to Jonathan Wild; but Hawkins sailed to Holland with it, and there sold it for forty pounds.

Hawkins returning to England, joined his companions, of whom Wilson was one, and robbed Sir David Dalrymple of about three pounds, a snuff-box, and a pocket-book, for which last Sir David offered 60l. reward to Wild; but the robbers having no connexion with that execrable villain, who did not even know their persons, they sent the book by a porter to Sir David, without expence.

Hawkins and his associates next stopped Mr. Hide, of Hackney, in his coach, and robbed him of 10l. and his watch, but missed 300l. which the gentleman then had in his possession. After this they stopped the Earl of Westmoreland's coach in Lincoln's-Inn-Fields, and robbed him of a sum of money, though there were three footmen behind the carriage. The footmen called the watch; but the robbers firing a pistol over their heads, the guardians of the night decamped.

Hawkins had now resolved to carry the booty obtained in several late robberies to Holland; but Jonathan Wild having heard of the connexion, caused some of the gang to be apprehended; on which the rest went into the country to hide themselves.

On this occasion Hawkins and Wilson went to Oxford, and paying a visit to the Bodleian library, the former wantonly defaced some pictures in the gallery; and 100l. reward was offered to discover the offender; and a poor taylor being taken up on suspicion, narrowly escaped being whipped, merely because he was of whiggish principles.

Wilson and Hawkins returning to London, and the former coming of age at that time, succeeded to a little estate his father had left him, which he sold for 350l. a small part of which he lent to his companions, to buy horses, and soon dissipated the rest at the gaming-table.

The associates now stopped two gentlemen in a chariot, in the Hampstead Road, who both fired at once, by which three slugs were lodged in Hawkins's shoulder, and the highwaymen got to London, with some difficulty. On Hawkins's recovery they attempted to stop a gentleman's coach in Hyde-park; but the coachman driving hastily, Wilson fired, and wounding himself in the hand, found it difficult to scale the Park wall, to effect his escape.

This circumstance occasioned some serious thoughts in his mind, in consequence of which he set out for his mother's house in Yorkshire, where he was kindly received, and fully determined never to return to his former practices.

While he was engaged in his mother's business, and planning schemes for domestic happiness, he was sent for to a public-house, where he found his old acquaintance, Hawkins, in company with George Simpson, of whom we shall have occasion to relate more in the course of this narrative.

Wilson was shocked at seeing them, and asked what could induce them to take such a journey. Hereupon Hawkins swore violently, said Wilson was impeached, and would be taken into custody in a few days. This induced him to go to London with them; but on his arrival he found that the story of the impeachment was false.

When in London they formed connexions with other thieves, and committed several robberies, for which some of the gang were executed. They frequented a public-house at London-Wall, the master of which kept a livery stable, so that they rode out at all hours, and robbed the stages, as they were coming into town. They took not only money, but portmanteaus, &c. and divided the booty with Carter, the master of the livery stable.

In this practice they continued a considerable time, till they were apprehended for robbing the mail, which we shall have occasion to mention in the sequel.

GEORGE SIMPSON was a native of Putney, in Surrey. His father was a wine-merchant, but being reduced in circumstances, removed into Lincolnshire. Young Simpson kept a public-house at Lincoln, and acted as a sheriff's officer; but quitting the country, he came to London, and was butler to Lord Castlemain; after which he lived in several other creditable places.

He now became acquainted with Hawkins, in company with whom he stopped the carriage of Richard West, Esq. behind Buckingham house, from whom they took a gold watch, and other valuable articles.

Soon after this, he robbed the Portsmouth coach, in company with Wilson, when one of the company fired at them. Thus they continued their depredations on the public, till one of their associates, named Child, was executed at Aylesbury, and hung in chains, for robbing the mail. This incensed them to such a degree that they determined to revenge the supposed insult by committing a similar crime.

They mentioned their design in the presence of Carter, the stable-keeper, who advised them to stop the mail from Harwich; but this they declined, because the changing of the wind must render the time of its arrival uncertain. At length it was determined that they would rob the Bristol mail; and they set out on an expedition for that purpose.

It appeared on the trial that the boy who carried the mail was overtaken at Slough, by a countryman, who travelled with him to Langley-Broom, where a person rode up to them and turned back again. When passing through Colnbrook they saw the same man again, with two others, who followed them at a small distance, and then pulling their wigs over their foreheads, and holding handkerchiefs in their mouths, came up with them, and commanded the post-boy and the countryman to come down a lane, where they ordered them to quit their horses, and then Hawkins, Simpson and Wilson tied them back to

back, and fastened them to a tree in a wet ditch, so that they were obliged to stand in the water. This being done, they took such papers as they liked out of the Bath and Bristol bags, and hid the rest in a hedge.

They now crossed the Thames, and riding a little way into Surry, put up their horses at an inn in Bermondsey-street. It was now about six in the morning, when they parted, and went different ways to a public-house in the Minories, where they proposed to divide their ill-gotten treasure.

The landlord being acquainted with the persons, and knowing the profession of his guests, showed them a private room, and supplied them with pen and ink. Having equally divided the bank notes, they threw the letters in the fire, and then went to their lodgings in Green-Arbour-Court in the Old-Bailey.

A few days after this transaction, they were taken into custody, in the following manner. Information having been given at the Post-Office, that suspicious people frequented the house of Carter, the stable-keeper at London-Wall, some persons were sent thither to make the necessary discoveries. Wilson happening to be there at the time, suspected their business, on which he abruptly retired, slipped through some bye allies, and got into the Moorgate-coffee-house, which he had occasionally used for two years before, on account of its being frequented by reputable company, and therefore less liable to be searched for suspicious people

He had not been long in the house before a quaker mentioned the search that was making in the neighbourhood, for the men who robbed the mail. This shocked him so that he instantly paid his reckoning, and going out at the back-door, went into Bedlam, where the melancholy sight of the objects around him, induced him to draw a comparison between their situation and his own; and he concluded that he was far more unhappy, through the weight of his guilt, than those poor wretches whom it had pleased God to deprive of the use of their intellects.

Having reflected that it would not be safe for him to stay longer in London, he resolved to go to Newcastle, by sea, and he was confirmed in this resolution, on reflecting that a person who wished his safety had informed him that he and his companions were the parties suspected of having robbed the mail. This friend likewise advised him to go to the Post-Office, surrender and turn evidence; hinting that if he did not, it was probable Simpson would; as he had asked some questions which seemed to intimate such a design.

Wilson neglected this advice; but held his resolution of going to Newcastle; and with that intention quitted Bedlam; but by Moorgate-coffee-house he met the men he had seen at Carter's. They turned and followed him: yet, unperceived by them, he entered the coffee-house, while they went under the arch of the gate, and if he had returned by the door he entered, he would have again escaped them; but going out of the fore-door of the house, they took him into custody, and conducted him to the Post-office.

On his first examination he refused to make any confession: and on the following day, he seemed equally determined to conceal the truth, till two circumstances induced him to reveal it. In the first place the Post Master General promised that he should be admitted an evidence if he would discover his accomplices; and one of the clerks calling him aside, showed him a letter, without any name to it, of which the following is a copy:

"SIR

"I am one of those persons who robbed the mails, which I am sorry for; and, to make amends, I will secure my two companions as soon as may be. He whose hand this shall appear to be, will, I hope, be entitled to the reward and his pardon."

As Wilson knew this letter to be of Simpson's handwriting, he thought himself justified in making a full discovery, which he accordingly did, in consequence of which his associates were apprehended at their lodgings in the Old Bailey, two days afterwards. At first they made an appearance of resistance, and threatened to shoot the peace-officers; but the latter saying they were provided with arms, the offenders yielded, and were committed to Newgate.

On the trial Hawkins endeavoured to prove that he was in London at the time that the mail was robbed; and one Fuller, of Bedfordbury, swore that he lodged at his house on that night. To ascertain this, Fuller produced a receipt for thirty shillings, which he said Hawkins then paid him for horse-hire.

The judge, desiring to look at that receipt, observed that the body of it was written with an ink of a different colour from that of the name at the bottom: on which he ordered the note to be handed to the jury, and remarked that Fuller's testimony deserved no kind of credit.

After examining some other witnesses, the judge proceeded to sum up the evidence, in which he was interrupted by a singular occurrence, which will be best understood by our giving it in the words of the short-hand writer.

"My ink, as it happened, was very bad, being thick at bottom, and thin and waterish at top; so that according as I dipped my pen, the writing appeared very pale, or pretty black.

Now, just as the court was remarking on the difference of the ink in Fuller's receipt; a gentleman who stood by me, perceiving something of the same kind in my writing, desired to look upon my notes for a minute. As I was not aware of any ill consequence, I let him take the book out of my hand: when presently showing it to his friend, See here (said he) what difference there is in the colour of the same ink!" His friend took it and showed it to

another. Uneasy at this I spoke to them to return me my book. They begged my pardon, and said I should have it in a minute; but this answer was no sooner given, than a curiosity suddenly entered one of the jurymen who sat just by, and he too begged a sight of the book: which notwithstanding my importunity, was immediately handed to him. He viewed it and gave it to the next, and so it passed from one to the other, till the judge perceiving them very busy, called to them.———Gentlemen, what are you doing? what book is that? They told him it was the writer's book, and they were observing how the same ink appeared pale in one place, and black in another. You ought not, gentlemen, says he, to take notice of any thing, but what is produced in evidence. And, then, turning to me, demanded what I meant by showing that to the jury. I answered that I could not fix upon the persons, for the gentlemen near me were all strangers to me, and I was far from imagining I should have any such occasion for taking particular notice of them.—His lordship then re-assumed his charge to the jury, which, being ended, they withdrew to consider of their verdict."

After staying out about an hour, the jury returned into court without agreeing on a verdict, saying they could not be convinced that Fuller's receipt was not genuine, merely on acount of the different colours of the ink.

In answer hereto the court intimated how many witnesses had sworn that Hawkins was absent from London; to contradict all whom there was only the evidence of Fuller, which was at least rendered doubtful by the ink appearing of two colours: and it was submitted whether Fuller's single testimony ought to be held of equal validity with that of all the opposing parties. Hereupon the jury went out of court and, on their return, gave a verdict of "guilty" against the prisoners.

After sentence of death they behaved as became persons in their unfortunate circumstances: Simpson in particular appeared to be highly affected with the awfulness of his situation.

At the place of execution Hawkins addressed the surrounding multitude, acknowledging that his sins had brought him to that shameful end, professing to die in charity with all mankind, and begging the prayers of those who were witnesses of his melancholy exit. He died with great difficulty; but Simpson was out of his pain almost without a struggle.

The above-mentioned malefactors were hung in chains on Hounslow-Heath, after being executed at Tyburn, on the 21st of May, 1722.

WILLIAM FIELD,

HIGHWAYMAN.

Executed at KENNINGTON COMMON, September 1st, 1778.

THIS malefactor was an accomplice of the notorious Hawke, *(See Hawke.)* and went by a variety of names, particularly that of GREEN. Not having learnt any trade, he entered into the service of a gentleman, with whom he lived three years, but was at length discharged on account of his character. However, he got another place, through a false recommendation; but his extravagance and ill hours induced this master likewise to discharge him.

Being reduced to great poverty, he resolved on commencing highwayman; and, having hired horses at livery-stables, he committed such a variety of robberies, that he soon became the subject of public conversation. The money he acquired by his lawless depredations, he squandered among men and women of abandoned character.

At length he was taken by the officers of justice, who carried him before a magistrate, by whom he was committed to Newgate.

He was tried at the next sessions at the Old Bailey: when the prosecutor gave his testimony against him in so favourable a manner, that though the jury found him guilty, they recommended him to the royal mercy; the consequence was that he was reprieved for transportation, in the year 1770.

On his arrival in North America he was sold as a slave, but soon finding means to escape with other slaves to New-York, they embarked on board a vessel bound for Poole, and landed in England. Field hastening to London, engaged with Hawke in the practice of robbing on the highway, and making large booties, he assumed the character of a gentleman; when, courting a girl who lived servant with a man of fortune, she consented to accept him for a husband. For some months after his marriage, he committed highway robberies about twice a week; but his wife had no suspicion of the life he led, conceiving him to be a man in good circumstances.

It is said, that in five months he collected 10,000l. in bills of exchange and cash. He frequently committed four or five robberies on a night, sometimes on Finchley Common, and often on Shooter's-hill, Blackheath, and other places in that neighbourhood; when once being closely pursued, he effected a difficult escape to town. After this he frequented Putney Common and its adjacencies, whence he brought considerable booties to London.

Field, Hawke, and another, having robbed some coaches, dined and made merry at a public-house at Barns, and staying till it was near night, they crossed Kew Bridge, and went to Acton, where they slept, being afraid of coming to London.

Notice having been given at Sir John Fielding's office, persons were sent out on different roads, and the offenders being taken, were conveyed, handcuffed, to Tothill-

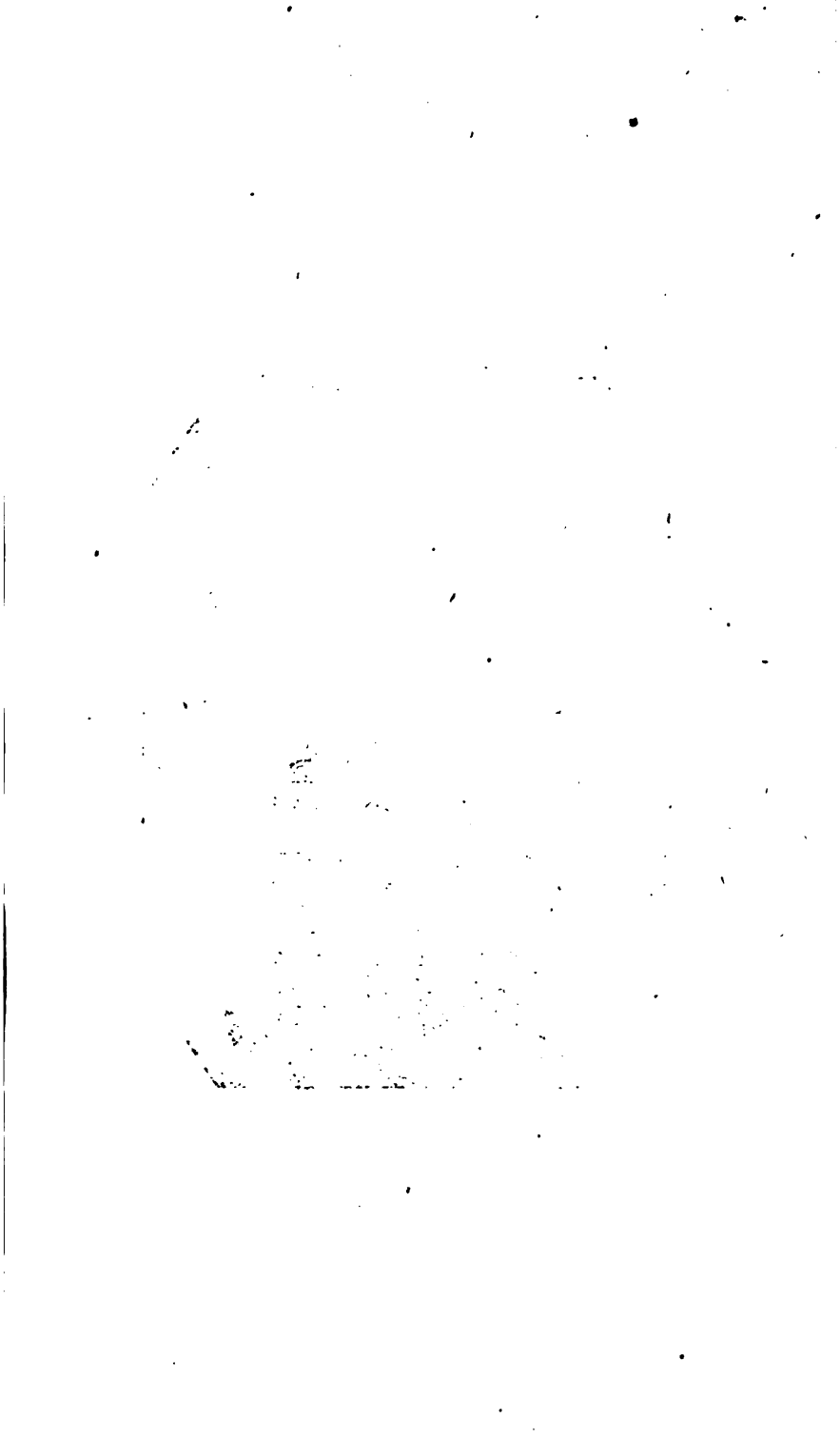
fields Bridewell. On a subsequent day they were examined, and a great number of robberies being sworn against Hawke and Field, they were remanded to prison, whence the former made his escape in a few days.

Though Field had returned from transportation, it was thought proper to indict him at the Surrey assizes, for the subsequent robberies, when he would have pleaded guilty; but Lord Chief Baron Smythe advised him to put himself on his trial; and the jury having given a verdict against him, the judge pronounced sentence, after addressing him in the most pathetic manner.

Being conveyed to the New Gaol in Southwark, he was attended by the Rev. Mr. Dyer, to whom he acknowledged that the robberies he had been charged with were far short of those he had committed, and appeared very penitent for his crimes.

At the place of execution, he warned young people to avoid bad company, as it was the certain road to destruction.

He suffered at Kennington Common, September 1st, 1778. *See Poulter, &c.*



EUGENE ARAM.

EUGENE ARAM,

MURDERER.

Executed near York, August 6th, 1759

THE murder for which Aram suffered, and his whole history, is so uncommon, that our readers will be equally pleased and astonished with a full and explicit relation of it.

He was a man of considerable erudition, which he acquired under great disadvantages, and who was also remarkable for his unhappy fate, and the singular circumstances that occasioned and attended it, was born at Remsgill, a little village, in Netherdale, Yorkshire, in the year 1704. He was descended from an ancient family, but his father was in no higher station than that of a gardener, though of great merit in that occupation. He was removed, when very young, together with his mother, to Skelson, near Newby; and, when he was five or six years old, his father making a little purchase in Bondgate, near Ripon, his family went thither. He was there sent to school, where he learned to read the New Testament in English, which was all he was ever taught, except that, some considerable time after, he was under the tuition of the Rev. Mr. Alcock, of Burnsal, for about a month.

When he was about thirteen or fourteen years of age, he went to his father in Newby, and attended him in the family there, till the death of Sir Edward Blackett. It was in the house of this gentleman, to whom his father

was gardener, that his propensity to literature first appeared. He was, indeed, always of a solitary disposition, and uncommonly fond of retirement and books; and here he enjoyed all the advantages of leisure and privacy. He applied himself at first chiefly to mathematical studies, in which he made a considerable proficiency.

At about sixteen years of age, he was sent to London to the house of Mr. Christopher Blackett, whom he served for some time in the capacity of book-keeper. After continuing here a year, or more, he was taken with the small pox, and suffered severely under that distemper. He afterwards returned into Yorkshire, in consequence of an invitation from his father, and there continued to prosecute his studies, but found in polite literature much greater charms than in the mathematics; which occasioned him now chiefly to apply himself to poetry, history, and antiquities. After this he was invited to Netherdale, where he engaged in a school, and married. But his marriage proved an unhappy connexion; for to the misconduct of his wife he afterwards attributed the misfortunes that befel him.

In the mean while, having perceived his deficiency in the learned languages, he applied himself to the grammatical study of the Latin and Greek tongues; after which he read, with great avidity and diligence, all the Latin classics, historians and poets. He then went through the Greek Testament; and lastly ventured upon Hesiod, Homer, Theocritus, Herodotus, and Thucydides, together with all the Greek tragedians.

In 1734, William Norton, Esq. a gentleman who had a friendship for him, invited him to Knaresborough. Here he acquired the knowledge of the Hebrew, and read the Pentateuch in that language. In 1744, he returned to London, and served the Rev. Mr. Plainblance, as usher in Latin and writing, in Piccadilly; and, with this gentleman's assistance, he acquired the knowledge of the French language.

He was afterwards employed as an usher and tutor in several parts of England; during which time he became acquainted with heraldry and botany. He also ventured upon Chaldee and Arabic, the former of which he found easy from its near connexion with the Hebrew. He then investigated the Celtic, as far as possible, in all its dialects; and having begun to form collections, and made comparisons between the Celtic, the English, the Latin, the Greek, and the Hebrew, and found a great affinity between them, he resolved to proceed through all these languages, and to form a comparative Lexicon.

But, in the midst of these learned labours and inquiries, it appears, that Aram committed a crime, which could not naturally have been expected from a man of so studious a turn, and which is the more extraordinary, as the inducement that led him to it is said to have been only gain, though he himself afterwards assigned a different motive.

On the 8th of February, 1744-5, he murdered Daniel Clark, a shoemaker, in conjunction with whom, and another person, he seems before to have been concerned in some fraudulent practices. The murder, however, was concealed near fourteen years, and then was discovered by a skeleton being accidentally found, which was supposed to be that of Clark. This was a mistake; but it led to a discovery of the whole transaction, which is thus related.

A labourer was employed to dig for some stone to supply a lime-kiln, at a place called Thistle-Hill, near Knaresborough, and having dug about two feet deep, he found the bones of a human body, and the bones being still joined to each other by the ligatures of the joints, the body appeared to have been buried double. This accident immediately became the subject of a general curiosity and inquiry.

Some hints had formerly been thrown out by Aram's wife, that Clark was murdered; that it was well remembered, that his disappearance was very sudden. This oc-

casioned Aram's wife to be sent for, as was also the Coroner, and an inquisition was entered into; it being believed, that the skeleton found was that of Daniel Clark. Mrs. Aram declared, that she believed Clark had been murdered by her husband and Richard Houseman. The latter, when he was brought before the Coroner, appeared to be in great confusion, trembling, changing colour, and faultering in his speech during the examination. The Coroner desired him to take up one of the bones, probably to observe what further effect that might produce; and Houseman, accordingly taking up one of the bones, said, "This is no more Dan Clark's bone than it is mine." These words were pronounced in such a manner as convinced those present, that they proceeded not from Houseman's supposition that Clark was alive, but from his certain knowledge where his bones really lay.

Accordingly, after some evasions, he said that Clark was murdered by Eugene Aram, and that the body was buried in St. Robert's cave, near Knaresborough. He added further, that Clark's head lay to the right, in the turn, at the entrance of the cave; and a skeleton was accordingly found there exactly in the posture he described.

In consequence of this Aram was apprehended at Lynn, in Norfolk, being at that time usher of a school there. He was brought from thence to York castle, and on the 3d of August, 1759, was tried at the county assizes for the murder. He was found guilty on the testimony of Richard Houseman, who, being arraigned, and acquitted, became an evidence against Aram, whose testimony was corroborated by that of Aram's wife, and other circumstantial evidence.

The fact seems to have been, that Houseman and Aram together murdered Clark, and jointly dragged his body into the cave, where it was found in the posture described by Houseman. It was supposed that Aram got all the money Clark had received for his wife's fortune, amounting to above 160l. The defence which he read in Court on this occasion, which is exceedingly curious, and

at once an evidence of his taste and erudition, though not of his innocence, is as follows:

"My Lord,

"I know not whether it is of right, or through some indulgence of your lordship, that I am allowed the liberty at this bar, and at this time, to attempt a defence; incapable, and uninstructed, as I am to speak. Since, while I see so many eyes upon me, so numerous and awful a concourse, fixed with attention, and filled with I know not what expectancy, I labour not with guilt, my lord, but with perplexity. For having never seen a court but this, being wholly unacquainted with law, the customs of the bar, and all judiciary proceedings, I fear I shall be so little capable of speaking with propriety in this place, that it exceeds my hope, if I shall be able to speak at all.

I have heard, my lord, the indictment read, wherein I find myself charged with the highest crime; with an enormity I am altogether incapable of; a fact, to the commission of which there goes far more insensibility of heart, more profligacy of morals, than ever fell to my lot. And nothing possibly could have admitted a presumption of this nature, but a depravity, not inferior to that imputed to me. However, as I stand indicted at your lordship's bar, and have heard what is called evidence educed in support of such a charge, I very humbly solicit your lordship's patience, and beg the hearing of this respectable audience, while I, single and unskilful, destitute of friends, and unassisted by counsel, say something, perhaps, like argument, in my defence. I shall consume but little of your lordship's time; what I have to say will be short, and this brevity, probably, will be the best part of it: however it is offered with all possible regard, and the greatest submission to your lordship's consideration, and that of this honourable court.

First, my lord, the whole tenor of my conduct in life contradicts every particular of this indictment. Yet I

had never said this, did not my present circumstances extort it from me, and seem to make it necessary. Permit me here, my lord, to call upon malignity itself, so long and cruelly busied in this prosecution, to charge upon me any immorality, of which prejudice was not the author. No, my lord, I concerted no schemes of fraud, projected no violence, injured no man's person or property. My days were honestly laborious, my nights intensely studious. And, I humbly conceive, my notice of this, especially at this time, will not be thought impertinent, or unseasonable; but, at least, deserving some attention: because, my lord, that any person, after a temperate use of life, a series of thinking and acting regularly, and without one single deviation from sobriety, should plunge into the very depth of profligacy, precipitately and at once, is altogether improbable and unprecedented, and absolutely inconsistent with the course of things. Mankind is never corrupted at once; villainy is always progressive, and declines from right, step after step, till every regard of probity is lost, and ever sense of all moral obligation totally perishes.

Again, my lord, a suspicion of this kind, which nothing but malevolence could entertain, and ignorance propagate, is violently opposed by my very situation at that time, with respect to health: for, but a little space before, I had been confined to my bed, and suffered under a very long and severe disorder, and was not able, for half a year together, so much as to walk. The distemper left me indeed, yet slowly and in part; but so macerated, so enfeebled, that I was reduced to crutches; and was so far from being well about the time I am charged with this fact, that I never to this day perfectly recovered. Could then a person in this condition take any thing into his head so unlikely, so extravagant? I, past the vigour of my age, feeble and valetudinary, with no inducement to engage, no ability to accomplish, no weapon wherewith to perpetrate such a fact; without interest, without power, without motive, without means.

Besides, it must needs occur to every one, that an action of this atrocious nature is never heard of, but, when its springs are laid open, it appears that it was to support some indolence, or supply some luxury, to satisfy some avarice, or oblige some malice; to prevent some real, or some imaginary want: yet I lay not under the influence of any one of these. Surely, my lord, I may, consistent with both truth and modesty, affirm thus much; and none, who have any veracity, and knew me, will ever question this.

In the second place, the disappearance of Clark is suggested as an argument of his being dead: but the uncertainty of such an inference from that, and the fallibility of all conclusions of such a sort from such a circumstance, are too obvious, and too notorious, to require instances: yet, superceding many, permit me to produce a very recent one, and that afforded by this castle.

In June, 1757, William Thompson, for all the vigilance of this place, in open day-light, and double ironed, made his escape; and, notwithstanding an immediate inquiry set on foot, the strictest search and all advertisement, was never seen or heard of since. If then Thompson got off unseen, through all these difficulties, how very easy was it for Clark, when none of them opposed him? But what would be thought of a prosecution commenced against any one seen last with Thompson?

Permit me next, my lord, to observe a little upon the bones which have been discovered. It is said, which perhaps is saying very far, that these are the skeleton of a man. It is possible indeed it may: but is there any certain known criterion, which incontestably distinguishes the sex in human bones? Let it be considered, my lord, whether the ascertaining of this point ought not to precede any attempt to identify them.

The place of their deposition too claims much more attention than is commonly bestowed upon it: for, of all places in the world, none could have mentioned any one, wherein there was greater certainty of finding human

bones, than a hermitage; except he should point out a church-yard; hermitages, in time past, being not only places of religious retirement, but of burial too. And it has scarce or never been heard of, but that every cell, now known, contains, or contained, these relics of humanity; some mutilated, and some intire. I do not inform, but give me leave to remind your lordship, that here sat solitary sanctity, and here the hermit, or the anchoress, hoped that repose for their bones, when dead, they here enjoyed when living.

All this while, my lord, I am sensible this is known to your lordship, and many in this court, better than I. But it seems necessary to my ease, that others, who have not at all, perhaps, adverted to things of this nature, and may have concern in my trial, should be made acquainted with it. Suffer me then, my lord, to produce a few of many evidences, that these cells were used as repositories of the dead, and to enumerate a few, in which human bones have been found, as it happened in this in question; lest, to some, that accident might seem extraordinary, and consequently, occasion prejudice.

1. The bones, as was supposed, of the Saxon, St. Dubritius, were discovered buried in his cell at Guy's cliff, near Warwick, as appears from the authority of Sir William Dugdale.

2. The bones, thought to be those of the anchoress Rosia, were but lately discovered in a cell at Royston, intire, fair, and undecayed, though they must have lain interred for several centuries, as is proved by Dr. Stukely.

3. But our own country, nay, almost this neighbourhood, supplies another instance: for, in January 1747, were found by Mr. Stovin, accompanied by a reverend gentleman, the bones, in part, of some recluse, in the cell at Lindholm, near Hatfield. They were believed to be those of William of Lindholm, a hermit, who had long made this cave his habitation.

4. In February 1744, part of Wooburn abbey being pulled down, a large portion of a corpse appeared, even with the flesh on, and which bore cutting with a knife; though it is certain this had lain above two hundred years, and how much longer is doubtful; for this abbey was founded in 1145, and dissolved in 1538 or 9.

What would have been said, what believed, if this had been an accident to the bones in question?

Further, my lord, it is not yet out of living memory, that at a little distance from Knaresborough, in a field, part of the manor of the worthy and patriot Baronet, who does that borough the honour to represent it in Parliament, were found, in digging for gravel, not one human skeleton only, but five or six, deposited side by side, with each an urn placed at his head, as your lordship knows was usual in ancient interments.

About the same time, and in another field, almost close to this borough, was discovered also, in searching for gravel, another human skeleton; but the piety of the same worthy gentleman ordered both the pits to be filled up again, commendably unwilling to disturb the dead.

Is the invention of these bones forgotten, then, or industriously concealed, that the discovery of those in question may appear the more singular and extraordinary? Whereas, in fact, there is nothing extraordinary in it. My lord, almost every place conceals such remains. In fields, in hills, in high-way sides, in commons, lie frequent and unsuspected bones. And our present allotments for rest for the departed are but of some centuries.

Another particular seems not to claim a little of your lordship's notice, and that of the gentlemen of the jury; which is, that no example occurs of more than one skeleton being found in one cell; and in the cell in question was found but one; agreeable, in this, to the peculiarity of every other known cell in Britain. Not the invention of one skeleton, then, but of two, would have appeared suspicious and uncommon.

But then, my lord, to attempt to identify these, when even to identify living men sometimes has proved so difficult, as in the case of Perkin Warbeck and Lambert Symnel at home, and of Don Sebastian abroad, will be looked upon perhaps as an attempt to determine what is indeterminable. And I hope too it will not pass unconsidered here, where gentlemen believe with caution, think with reason, and decide with humanity, what interest the endeavour to do this is calculated to serve, in assigning proper personality to those bones, whose particular appropriation can only appear to eternal Omniscience.

Permit me, my lord, also very humbly to remonstrate, that, as human bones appear to have been the inseparable adjuncts of every cell, even any person's naming such a place at random as containing them, in this case, shows him rather unfortunate than conscious prescient, and that these attendants on every hermitage only accidentally concurred with this conjecture. A mere casual coincidence of words and things.

But it seems another skeleton has been discovered by some labourer, which was full as confidently averred to be Clark's as this. My lord, must some of the living, if it promotes some interest, be made answerable for all the bones that earth has concealed, and chance exposed? And might not a place where bones lay be mentioned by a person by chance, as well as found by a labourer by chance? Or is it more criminal accidentally to name where bones lie, than accidentally to find where they lie? Here too is a human skull produced, which is fractured; but was this the cause, or was it the consequence of death; was it owing to violence, or was it the effect of natural decay? If it was violence, was that violence before or after death? My lord, in May 1732, the remains of William, lord archbishop of this province, were taken up by permission, in this cathedral, and the bones of the skull were found broken; yet certainly he died by no violence offered to him alive, that could occasion that fracture there?

Let it be considered, my lord, that, upon the dissolution of religious houses, and the commencement of the reformation, the ravages of those times both affected the living and the dead. In search after imaginary treasures, coffins were broken up, graves and vaults dug open, monuments ransacked, and shrines demolished; your lordship knows that these violations proceeded so far, as to occasion parliamentary authority to restrain them; and it did, about the beginning of the reign of Queen Elizabeth. I entreat your lordship suffer not the violences, the depredations, and the iniquities of those times to be imputed to this.

Moreover, what gentleman here is ignorant that Knaresborough had a castle; which, though now a ruin, was once considerable both for its strength and garrison. All know it was vigorously besieged by the arms of the parliament; at which siege, in sallies, conflicts, flights, pursuits, many fell in all the places round it; and where they fell were buried; for every place, my lord, is burial earth in war; and many, questionless, of these rest yet unknown, whose bones futurity shall discover.

I hope, with all imaginable submission, that what has been said will not be thought impertinent to this indictment; and that it will be far from the wisdom, the learning, and the integrity of this place, to impute to the living what zeal in its fury may have done; what nature may have taken off, and piety interred; or what war alone may have destroyed, alone deposited.

As to the circumstances that have been raked together, I have nothing to observe, but that all circumstances whatsoever are precarious, and have been but too frequently found lamentably fallible; even the strongest have failed. They may rise to the utmost degree of probability; yet are they but probability still. Why need I name to your lordship the two Harrisons, recorded in Dr. Howel, who both suffered upon circumstances, because of the sudden disappearance of their lodger, who was in credit, had contracted debts, borrowed money, and went off unseen,

and returned again a great many years after their execution? Why name the intricate affair of Jabques du Moulin, under King Charles II. related by a gentleman who was counsel for the crown? And why the unhappy Coleman, who suffered innocently, though convicted upon positive evidence, and whose children perished for want, because the world uncharitably believed the father guilty? Why mention the perjury of Smith, incautiously admitted king's evidence; who, to screen himself, equally accused Faircloth and Loveday of the murder of Dunn; the first of whom, in 1749, was executed at Winchester; and Loveday was about to suffer at Reading, had not Smith been proved perjured, to the satisfaction of the court, by the surgeon of the Gosport hospital?

Now, my lord, having endeavoured to show that the whole of this process is altogether repugnant to every part of my life; that it is inconsistent with my condition of health about that time; that no rational inference can be drawn, that a person is dead who suddenly disappears; that hermitages were the constant repositories of the bones of the recluse: that the proofs of this are well authenticated: that the revolutions in religion, or the fortune of war, have mangled, or buried, the dead; the conclusion remains, perhaps, no less reasonably than impatiently wished for. I, last, after a year's confinement, equal to either fortune, put myself upon the candour, the justice, and the humanity of your lordship, and upon yours, my countrymen, gentlemen of the jury."

After his conviction, he confessed the justice of his sentence to two clergymen, who were directed to attend him in York castle, to whom he acknowledged that he murdered Clark. Being asked by one of them, what was his motive for committing that action, he answered, that "he suspected Clark of having an unlawful commerce with his wife; that he was persuaded at the time when he committed the murder, he did right; but that since he thought it wrong."

In hopes of eluding the course of justice, he made an attempt upon his own life, by cutting his arm in two places with a razor, which he had concealed for that purpose. On a table, in his cell, was found the following paper, containing his reasons for the above attempt.

"What am I better than my fathers? To die is natural and necessary. Perfectly sensible of this, I fear no more to die than I did to be born. But the manner of it is something which should, in my opinion, be decent and manly. I think I have regarded both these points. Certainly nobody has a better right to dispose of a man's life than himself: and he, not others, should determine how. As for any indignities offered to my body, or silly reflections on my faith and morals, they are (as they always were) things indifferent to me. I think, though contrary to the common way of thinking, I wrong no man by this, and hope it is not offensive to that eternal Being that formed me and the world: and, as by this I injure no man, no man can be reasonably offended. I solicitously recommend myself to the eternal and almighty Being, the God of nature, if I have done amiss. But perhaps I have not; and I hope this thing will never be imputed to me. Though I am now stained by malevolence, and suffer by prejudice, I hope to rise fair and unblemished. My life was not poluted, my morals irreproachable, and my opinions orthodox. I slept sound till three o'clock, awaked, and then writ these lines:

Come, pleasing rest, eternal slumbers fall,
Seal mine, that once must seal the eyes of all;
Calm and compos'd my soul her journey takes,
No guilt that troubles, and no heart that aches;
Adieu! thou sun, all bright like her arise,
Adieu! fair friends, and all that's good and wise."

These lines, found with the foregoing, were supposed to have been written by Aram just before he cut himself with the razor.

By proper applications he was brought to himself, and, though weak, was conducted to the place of execution; where, being asked if he had any thing to say, he replied in the negative.

He was immediately after executed, August 6th, 1759, and his body being conveyed to Knaresborough forest, he was there hung in chains, pursuant to his sentence.

PETER M'CLOUD,

HOUSEBREAKER.

Executed at TYBURN, May 27th, 1772.

THIS unfortunate youth was the son of a poor man at Shields, near Newcastle, who brought him to London while he was quite a child; but his father dying in a short time, the boy was left to the care of his mother, a woman of very doubtful character.

Having become acquainted with a lad named Younger, he was concerned with him in a variety of irregular practices. At length, he engaged himself on board one of the colliers trading to Newcastle; and, while he was absent, Younger accused his mother of having been the receiver of stolen goods, in consequence of which she was apprehended, and brought to trial, but was discharged in defect of evidence.

M'Cloud returning from his voyage, and learning in what manner his mother had been treated by Younger, he made the most solemn vow of taking vengeance on him, whatever might be the consequence of such a proceeding.

That he might effect the ruin of his old companion in iniquity, he surrendered himself to a magistrate, and gave information that himself and Younger had been concerned in a robbery; on which the latter was taken into custody, and committed to Newgate, M'Cloud being admitted an evidence for the crown against his presumed accomplice; but, at the ensuing sessions, M'Cloud was incapable of giving any thing like evidence against his companion, who was of course acquitted, and the scheme of revenge was consequently frustrated.

It is no less astonishing than true, that, notwithstanding what had passed, these young fellows soon renewed their former connexion; so that whatever degree of malice might have harboured in the breast of M'Cloud, he seemed to have forgot it, in the wish to recommence his depredations on the public with his former accomplice.

They now joined, with five or six other boys, in the practice of picking pockets, in which, for some time, they met with too much success. Their thefts were principally confined to the stealing of handkerchiefs, in the practice of which they were frequently detected, but dismissed after receiving the discipline of the horse-pond. These young thieves were harboured at a house of ill-fame in the neighbourhood of Saltpetre-bank. M'Cloud had been so often dragged through horse-ponds, and exposed to the derision of the public, that he seemed to have lost all sense of shame, and his paltry gains by theft consoled him for the ignomy that attended it.

He was three times tried at the Old Bailey for different offences, and acquitted for want of sufficient evidence. At length, after a series of practice in the picking of pockets, this gang of young villains determined to commence housebreakers, for which they were qualified, not so much by their strength as by their artifice. They furnished themselves with a variety of tools proper for the wrenching doors and window-shutters. Occasionally, they used to climb over roofs, enter at the garret-windows of houses, and descend to the lower rooms to commit their

robberies; and at other times, they would enter through any small opening that had been casually left unguarded. When one or two of the smallest of them had got into a house, they used to go down stairs and open the door for their associates. Sometimes, only a part of the gang went in, and the rest waited to prevent detection from the arrival of any casual passenger.

It is almost incredible to think how many houses were robbed of very valuable effects by these young confederates; however, their depredations were chiefly confined to Ratcliff-highway and its neighbourhood, where a great number of persons were sufferers by their villainies.

At length, three of the gang, of whom M'Cloud was one, repaired to Poplar, where they broke open the house of Joseph Hankey, esq. in the dead of the night. The family were all asleep, but the barking of a dog awaking one of the servants, he alarmed the rest, and begged them to oppose the intruders. Two of the thieves made an immediate escape; but M'Cloud was apprehended and lodged in the watch-house.

On the following day he was carried before a magistrate, who committed him to Newgate, and at the next sessions held at the Old Bailey, he was brought to trial, capitally convicted and sentenced to die.

For some time after conviction, he appeared hardened in a very high degree, nor paid any attention to the exortations of the ordinary of Newgate; but when he learnt that he was one of the convicts ordered for execution, a total alteration was visible in the whole of his conduct and behaviour. He apologized to the ordinary for the indifference with which he had heretofore treated him.

It happened, at this time, that Younger was in Newgate, under sentence of transportation; and M'Cloud, sending for him, begged his pardon for the injury that he had formerly attempted.

On the morning of his death, he received the sacrament, in company with the other malefactors who were to suffer with him. When he arrived at the fatal tree, he

requested a person to beg that his mother would not unreasonably grieve at his death; as he had hopes that he was departing to the regions of eternal glory.

He suffered at Tyburn, on the 27th of May, 1772, aged only sixteen!

SARAH METYARD AND SARAH MORGAN METYARD, HER DAUGHTER,

MURDERERS.

Executed at TYBURN, July 19th, 1768.

THE above malefactors kept a house in Bruton-street, Hanover-square, the mother dealing in millinery goods, and the daughter acting as her assistant. In the year 1758, the mother had five apprentice girls bound to her from different parish workhouses, among whom were Anne Naylor and her sister.

Anne Naylor, being of a sickly constitution, was not able to do so much work as the other apprentices about the same age; and therefore she became the more immediate object of the fury of the barbarous women, whose repeated acts of cruelty at length occasioned the unhappy girl to abscond. Being brought back, she was confined in an upper apartment, and allowed each day no other sustenance than a small piece of bread, and a little water.

Seizing an opportunity of escaping from her confinement, she got unperceived into the street, and ran to a milk-carrier, whom she begged to protect her, saying, if she returned, she must certainly perish, through the want of food, and the severe treatment she daily received. Being soon missed, she was followed by the younger Metyard, who seizing her by the neck, forced her into the house, and threw her upon the bed in the room where she had been confined, and she was then seized by the old woman, who held her down while the daughter beat her with the handle of a broom in a most cruel manner.

They afterwards put her into a back-room on the second story, tying a cord round her waist, and her hands behind her, and fastening her to the door in such a manner that it was impossible for her either to sit or lay down. She was compelled to remain in this situation for three successive days: but they permitted her to go to bed at the usual hours at night. Having received no kind of nutriment for three days and two nights, her strength was so exhausted that, being unable to walk up stairs, she crept to the garret, where she lay on her hands and feet. While she remained tied up on the second floor, the other apprentices were ordered to work in an adjoining apartment, that they might be deterred from disobedience by being witnesses to the unhappy girl's sufferings: but they were enjoined, on the penalty of being subjected to equal severity, against affording her any kind of relief.

On the fourth day she faultered in speech, and presently afterwards expired. The other girls seeing the whole weight of her body supported by the strings which confined her to the door, were greatly alarmed, and called out, "Miss Sally! Miss Sally! Nanny does not move." The daughter now came up stairs, saying, "If she does not move, I will make her move;" and then beat the deceased on the head with the heel of a shoe.

Perceiving no signs of life, she called to her mother, who came up stairs, and having ordered the strings that

confined the deceased to be cut, laid the body across her lap, and directed one of the apprentices where to find a bottle with some hartshorn drops.

When the child had brought the drops, she and the other girls were ordered to go down stairs; and the mother and daughter, being convinced that the object of their barbarity was dead, conveyed the body into the garret. They related to the other apprentices, that Nanny had been in a fit, but was perfectly recovered, adding, that she was locked into the garret lest she should again run away: and, in order to give an air of plausibility to their tale, at noon the daughter carried a plate of meat up stairs, saying it was for Nanny's dinner.

They locked the body of the deceased in a box on the fourth day after the murder; and having left the garret-door open, and the street-door on the jar, one of the apprentices was told to call Nanny down to dinner, and to tell her that, if she would promise to behave well in future, she should be no longer confined. Upon the return of the child, she said, Nanny was not above stairs; and after a great parade in searching every part of the house, they reflected upon her as being of an untractable disposition, and pretended that she had ran away.

The sister to the deceased, who was apprentice to the same inhuman mistress, mentioned to a lodger in the house, that she was persuaded her sister was dead; observing, that it was not probable she had gone away, since her shoes, shift, and other parts of her apparel, still remained in the garret.

The suspicions of this girl coming to the knowledge of the inhuman wretches, they, with a view of preventing a discovery, cruelly murdered her, and secreted the body.

The body of Anne remained in the box two months, during which time the garret door was kept locked, lest the offensive smell should lead to a discovery. The stench became so powerful, that they judged it prudent to remove the remains of the unhappy victim to their barbarity; and therefore, in the evening of the 5th of December,

they cut the body in pieces, and tied the head and trunk up in one cloth, and the limbs in another, excepting one hand, a finger belonging to which had been amputated before death, and that they resolved to burn.

When the apprentices were gone to bed, the old woman put the hand into the fire, saying, "The fire tells no tales." She intended entirely to consume the remains of the unfortunate girl by fire; but, fearing the smell would give rise to suspicion, changed that design, and taking the candles to the gully-hole in Chick-lane, endeavoured to throw the parts of the mangled corpse over the wall into the common sewer; but, being unable to effect that, she left them among the mud and water that was collected before the grate of the sewer.

Some pieces of the body being discovered about twelve o'clock by the watchman, he mentioned the circumstance to the constable of the night. The constable applied to one of the overseers of the parish, by whose direction the parts of the body were collected, and taken to the watch-house. On the following day the matter was communicated to Mr. Umfreville, the coroner, who examined the pieces found by the watchman; but supposing them to be parts of a corpse taken from a church-yard for the use of some surgeon, he declined summoning a jury.

Four years elapsed before the discovery of these horrid murders, which at length happened in the following manner. Continual disagreements prevailed between the mother and daughter; and though the latter was now arrived to the age of maturity, she was often beat, and otherwise treated with severity. Thus provoked, she sometimes threatened to destroy herself, and at others to give information against her mother as a murderer.

About two years after the murders, a gentleman, named Rooker, took lodgings in the house of Metyard, where he lived about three months, during which time he had frequent opportunities of observing the severity with which the girl was treated.

He hired a house in Hill-street, and, influenced by compassion for her sufferings, and desirous of relieving her from the tyranny of her mother, he invited the girl to live in his family in the capacity of a servant; which offer she cheerfully embraced, though her mother had many times violently opposed her desire of going to service.

The girl had no sooner removed to Mr Rooker's house, than the old woman became perfectly outrageous; and it was almost her constant daily practice to create disturbances in Mr. Rooker's neighbourhood, by venting the most bitter execrations against the girl, and branding her with the most opprobrious epithets.

Mr. Rooker removed to Ealing, to reside on a little estate bequeathed him by a relation; and having by this time seduced the girl, she accompanied him, and lived with him professedly in the character of his mistress.

The old woman's visits were not less frequent at Ealing than they had been at Mr. Rooker's house in London: nor was her behaviour less outrageous. At length Mr. Rooker permitted her to be admitted into the house, imagining that such indulgence would induce her to preserve a decency of behaviour: but he was disappointed, for she still continued to disturb the peace of his family.

On the 9th of June, 1762, she beat her daughter in a terrible manner; and, during the contention, many expressions were uttered by both parties that gave great uneasiness to Mr. Rooker. The mother called Mr. Rooker, "The old perfume tea dog; and the girl retorted, by saying, "Remember, mother, you are the perfumer; you are the Chick-lane ghost," alluding to the body of Anne Naylor having been kept in the box till it became intolerably offensive, and then thrown among the mud and water in Chick-lane.

The mother being retired, Mr. Rooker urged the girl to explain what was meant to be insinuated by the indirect accusations introduced by both parties in the course of the dispute: and, bursting into tears, she confessed the particulars of the murders, begging that a secret so materially affecting her mother might never be divulged.

they cut the body in pieces, and tied the head and trunk up in one cloth, and the limbs in another, excepting one hand, a finger belonging to which had been amputated before death, and that they resolved to burn.

When the apprentices were gone to bed, the old woman put the hand into the fire, saying, "The fire tells no tales." She intended entirely to consume the remains of the unfortunate girl by fire; but, fearing the smell would give rise to suspicion, changed that design, and taking the candles to the gully-hole in Chick-lane, endeavoured to throw the parts of the mangled corpse over the wall into the common sewer; but, being unable to effect that, she left them among the mud and water that was collected before the grate of the sewer.

Some pieces of the body being discovered about twelve o'clock by the watchman, he mentioned the circumstance to the constable of the night. The constable applied to one of the overseers of the parish, by whose direction the parts of the body were collected, and taken to the watch-house. On the following day the matter was communicated to Mr. Umfreville, the coroner, who examined the pieces found by the watchman; but supposing them to be parts of a corpse taken from a church-yard for the use of some surgeon, he declined summoning a jury.

Four years elapsed before the discovery of these horrid murders, which at length happened in the following manner. Continual disagreements prevailed between the mother and daughter; and though the latter was now arrived to the age of maturity, she was often beat, and otherwise treated with severity. Thus provoked, she sometimes threatened to destroy herself, and at others to give information against her mother as a murderer.

About two years after the murders, a gentleman, named Rooker, took lodgings in the house of Metyard, where he lived about three months, during which time he had frequent opportunities of observing the severity with which the girl was treated.

He hired a house in Hill-street, and, influenced by compassion for her sufferings, and desirous of relieving her from the tyranny of her mother, he invited the girl to live in his family in the capacity of a servant; which offer she cheerfully embraced, though her mother had many times violently opposed her desire of going to service.

The girl had no sooner removed to Mr Rooker's house, than the old woman became perfectly outrageous; and it was almost her constant daily practice to create disturbances in Mr. Rooker's neighbourhood, by venting the most bitter execrations against the girl, and branding her with the most opprobrious epithets.

Mr. Rooker removed to Ealing, to reside on a little estate bequeathed him by a relation; and having by this time seduced the girl, she accompanied him, and lived with him professedly in the character of his mistress.

The old woman's visits were not less frequent at Ealing than they had been at Mr. Rooker's house in London: nor was her behaviour less outrageous. At length Mr. Rooker permitted her to be admitted into the house, imagining that such indulgence would induce her to preserve a decency of behaviour: but he was disappointed, for she still continued to disturb the peace of his family.

On the 9th of June, 1762, she beat her daughter in a terrible manner; and, during the contention, many expressions were uttered by both parties that gave great uneasiness to Mr. Rooker. The mother called Mr. Rooker, "The old perfume tea dog; and the girl retorted, by saying, "Remember, mother, you are the perfumer; you are the Chick-lane ghost," alluding to the body of Anne Naylor having been kept in the box till it became intolerably offensive, and then thrown among the mud and water in Chick-lane.

The mother being retired, Mr. Rooker urged the girl to explain what was meant to be insinuated by the indirect accusations introduced by both parties in the course of the dispute: and, bursting into tears, she confessed the particulars of the murders, begging that a secret so materially affecting her mother might never be divulged.

Mr Rooker imagined that the daughter could not be rendered amenable to the law, as she performed her share in the murders by the direction of her mother; but we pretend not to say that he would have suppressed the discovery, had he supposed that making the horrid transaction public would have endangered the girl's life. Mr. Rooker wrote concerning the affair to the overseers of Tottenham parish, whence the girls were put out apprentice; in consequence of which, the elder Metyard was taken into custody.

On the day of examination, Mr. Rooker, the younger Metyard, and two children, apprentices in the house when the murders were committed, attended at Sir John Fielding's house in Bow-street. The evidence against the prisoner left no doubt of her guilt; and she was committed to New-Prison, Clerkenwell, for re-examination, and the girls were put under the protection of the overseers of St. George, Hanover-square.

Upon the prisoner's being examined a second time, she was remanded for trial; and some circumstances having arisen to criminate the daughter, she was ordered to stand at the bar of Sir John's office, and the evidence against her being recapitulated on oath, she was committed to the Gate-house.

On the trial of these offenders, which came on at the ensuing Old Bailey sessions, they bitterly recriminated each other, and their mutual accusations served to confirm the evidence of their guilt. The younger Metyard pleaded pregnancy, on which a jury of matrons was summoned, who pronounced that she was not with child; after which they were both sentenced to be executed on the following Monday, and then to be conveyed to Surgeons'-hall for dissection.

The mother being in a fit when she was put into the cart, she lay at her length till she came to the place of execution, when she was raised up, and means were used for her recovery, but without effect, so that she departed this life in a state of insensibility. From the time of leav-

ing Newgate to the moment of her death, the daughter wept incessantly: it is true, she joined the ordinary in prayer; but such was the distracted state of her mind, that there is but too much reason to fear she died without that sincere repentance which alone can avert the terrible decree denounced against those who impiously arrogate to themselves the power of the Almighty, and imbrue their hands in the blood of innocence. After hanging the usual time, the bodies were conveyed in a hearse to Surgeons'-hall, where they were exposed to the curiosity of the public, and then dissected.

Sarah Metyard, and Sarah Morgan Metyard, were executed at Tyburn on the 19th of July, 1768.

JAMES M'KEAN,

MURDERER.

Executed at Glasgow, January 25th, 1797.

THIS inhuman wretch was a North Briton, of a most vicious disposition: About 6 o'clock on a Friday evening, he murdered one James Buchanan, carrier, in the following manner.

Buchanan called at his house, between Glasgow and Lanark, when M'Kean conducted him into a room, and instantly cut his throat with a razor, which divided both the carotid arteries, and then robbed him of his watch and a considerable sum in money.

A noise having excited some surprize in his wife, she ran to the door, which was opened by M'Kean. Alarmed at the sight of some blood lying on the floor, she shriek-

ed murder, on which her husband instantly ran off. The body of Buchanan was found in a closet, by people whom her cries had brought to the house, and the razor reeking with blood. M'Kean was apprehended at Lamlash, in the Isle of Arran, on the ensuing Sunday.

Next morning he was conveyed to Glasgow in a post-chaise; on his arrival about eight o'clock, the joy of the populace, at his apprehension, could not be restrained: they hailed the officers with loud acclamations, and the air resounded with huzzas when they saw him securely lodged in gaol.

Buchanan's pocket-book, containing bank notes to the amount of 118l. his watch, and several papers were found upon M'Kean.

On his examination by the magistrates, he confessed the robbery, but endeavoured to palliate the charge of murder.

This wretch being found Guilty—was executed January 25, 1797, at the Cross of Glasgow, on a new-erected gibbet.

He appeared on the scaffold, dressed in white, about ten minutes after three; proceeded to the front with a firm and undaunted air, holding a paper in his hand, and after saying a few words to the multitude, which was immense (near twenty thousand!), he gave it to one of the town officers.

About ten minutes after, he mounted the platform with much indifference, and after praying a few minutes was launched into eternity, without one sympathizing tear from the surrounding multitude.

JOHN POULTER, alias BAXTER,

HIGHWAYMAN.

Executed at Ivelchester, in Somersetshire, Feb. 25th, 1755.

THIS notorious offender was the son of honest people in indigent circumstances, residing at Newmarket in the county of Cambridge; who, when he had nearly completed his seventh year, put him to a day-school, which he continued to attend till he was about thirteen years old, when he was engaged as an assistant to the grooms in the service of the Duke of Somerset.

Having remained in this situation six years, he was hired by Lord John Cavendish, whose horses he attended about three years, and then entered into the service of Colonel Lumley, brother to the Earl of Scarborough. He was sent by this gentleman three times with horses to France, and was considered as an honest and industrious servant.

Being of a temper that delighted in a change of situation, he entered on board a trading ship belonging to Bristol; and made several voyages to the West Indies and North America. The ship to which he belonged being paid off on the conclusion of the peace of Aix la Chapelle, he connexed himself with Mary Brown and Mary Davis, women of abandoned characters; and they, in conjunction with John Brown, persuaded him to join them in committing depredations on the public.

They directed their course towards Litchfield, when they went into a public house for refreshment. Being introduced to a parlour, Mary Brown observed a chest, and the lid not being close, she put in her hand, and stole a sum of money, and several other articles of value.

Having obtained the above booty, they proceeded to Chester, where Poulter stole some plush, and sent for a tailor to make it into a suit of clothes. While the tailor was measuring him, a pistol that was in his pocket accidentally went off, but fortunately no damage was done by the ball. The tailor carried the plush home, and then went to the mayor, to whom he cummunicated his suspicions.

Officers were dispatched to examine Poulter and his companions, but being apprized of their approach, they embarked on board a packet-boat, which conveyed them to Dublin.

Soon after his arrival in Dublin, Poulter hired a public-house, where he sold on an average five barrels of ale weekly, and other liquors in proportion. His great success in business induced him to make a resolution of entirely declining illegal pursuits: and to this he would, in all probability, have strictly adhered, had he not been unluckily compelled to renew his acquaintance with abandoned people.

General Sinclair had his pocket picked of a valuable gold watch, either in going into or departing from Leicester-house; and two men, Harper and Tobin, were suspected to be guilty of the fact, and committed to the Gate-house.

A desperate gang of twenty-four Irishmen rescued Harper; in consequence of which a proclamation, offering a reward for apprehending them, was issued; but they all escaped to Ireland. One of the above gang, James Field, who had been acquainted with Poulter, went up to him while he was standing at his door, and after some conversation, they drank together.

On the following day Field took the whole gang to Poulter's house. He requested them to depart, and at other times endeavoured to dissuade them from frequenting his house, urging that their visits might be productive of very disagreeable consequences to him: but they disregarded what he said, and continued their meetings as usual.

At length they were observed in the house, by a messenger that had been dispatched in search of them from London, and taken into custody. In consequence of this, Poulter absconded from his house in the night, and his stock of liquors and other effects were seized by the magistrates.

Poulter now intended to reside at Cork, but not being able to get a house there that he thought would answer his purpose, he went to Waterford and took a public-house, which he kept about three months.

His brewer in Dublin wrote him word, that he might return without the least danger of molestation; and therefore he departed from Waterford, and took a house about two miles from the city, at a place called the Shades of Clontarf. His house being adjacent to the sea, he purchased a boat, and applied himself with so much industry to the business of a fisherman, that his weekly profits seldom amounted to less than three pounds.

Thomas Tobin being acquitted of the charge of stealing General Sinclair's watch, through defect of evidence, and learning that Poulter had struck into an advantageous line of life, he determined to visit him.

In pursuance of this design, Tobin and a woman with whom he cohabited, travelled to Holy-head, and there embarked in the packet for Dublin.

Poulter received them with great kindness, and entertained them with equal generosity; but entreated, in the most earnest manner, that they would not repeat their visits too frequently, nor make his place of residence known to their accomplices.

Though they had faithfully promised to comply with his request, they in a few days introduced several of their associates to his house, which, before many weeks had elapsed, became the receptacle for thieves of every denomination, by whom Dublin and its environs were infested. Poulter still adhered to his resolution of gaining a livelihood by honest labour, and informed his unwelcome guests that he would permit them no longer to frequent his house.

In revenge for this, they concerted and put in practice a plan for effecting his ruin. Six pounds of smuggled tea being procured, one of the gang privately conveyed it into Poulter's boat, and then lodged an information against him; in consequence of which the boat was seized and condemned; and Poulter, though innocent, judged it expedient to abscond.

He embarked for Bristol, and on his arrival there was entirely destitute of money. From Bristol he proceeded to Bath, where he met with his former acquaintances, Richard Branning and John Roberts, who prevailed upon him to join them in committing depredations on the highway. They mentioned a man of property who lived at Towbridge, and frequently came to Bath to change bills; and it was resolved to stop him. They met at Roberts's house, where the plan of the intended robbery was concerted, and then they repaired to the public-house, which was frequented by the gentlemen of Towbridge, and observing him counting money, they concluded that they could not fail obtaining a considerable booty.—However, they were disappointed, for the gentleman, suspecting their design, returned by a road which he had not been used to travel, and by that measure luckily preserved his property.

They now proceeded into Yorkshire; and in their way committed several robberies. At the inn where they alighted at Halifax, they were joined by a clergyman, whom they seduced to prick in the belt, by which stratagem they defrauded him of twenty-five guineas.

They now went to Stockport in Cheshire, where they lay one night, and then travelled to Chester. Putting up at a house kept by one James Roberts, who had formerly belonged to the gang, he informed them that the pack-horses with Manchester goods would pass in the evening; and it was resolved to steal one of the horses, and the goods he carried.

As the horses passed, Roberts pointed to that loaded with the most valuable effects, and advised his companions to go about a mile from the town, and drive the beast into the fields, adding, that he would scarcely be missed by the carrier in less than two hours, in which time they might secure the goods and escape. The horse they seized was not that pointed out by Roberts; and their booty consisted only of callimancoes.

Finding himself separated from his companions, the horse neighed so loud and so frequent, that they judged it necessary to gag him, lest the horse should lead to a discovery. They reached Whitchurch, in Shropshire, the same night; and, after refreshing themselves at a house notorious for the reception of robbers, cut the marks from the goods, and exposed them for sale in the market.

Having sold the callimancoes, they proceeded to Grantham in Lincolnshire, and defrauded a farmer of that place of near sixteen pounds, by pricking in the belt; immediately after which they set out for Nottingham, where they stole a silver tankard, and after selling it to a shopkeeper in the town, proceeded to York.

Having stolen some plate from the inn where they put up, and committed several robberies in different parts of Yorkshire, they deemed it prudent to remove from that part of the country, lest they should be apprehended, and came to the resolution of joining their former associates at Bath.

Soon after their arrival here, the whole gang set out for Sandford Peverel, in Devonshire, in order to be present at a great fair for cattle; where they obtained considera-

ble sums by pricking in the belt, and other infamous practices.

They next went to Great Torrington, where they defrauded a farmer of twenty pounds. Enraged by the imposition that he had practised upon him, the farmer took every opportunity of relating the particulars of the fraud; the whole neighbourhood was consequently alarmed, and in pursuit of the sharpers; and they were, therefore, under the necessity of dispersing. Poulter and Brown directed their course to Exeter, and having defrauded an inhabitant of that town of five pounds, proceeded to Crookhorn, in expectation of meeting their associates: but on their arrival, they learnt that two of them were in confinement, charged with fraudulent practices.

This information occasioned the rest of the gang to make a precipitate retreat; and on their way to the north of England, they obtained several sums, by a variety of infamous stratagems.

They remained some months at York, Durham, and Newcastle; and, after defrauding a number of farmers, and some other persons, of money, they went to Bath, where they assumed the character of smugglers. They had not been long here before they determined to go to the approaching Blandford races, in search of adventures. During the races, one party attended the cock-pit each morning: some were upon the course in the afternoon; and others were employed in cheating the keepers of the booths.

They were so successful in their respective departments of villainy, as to amass a very considerable sum; and, on the conclusion of the races, they ordered an elegant dinner at the Crown tavern in Blandford, whence they stole a portmanteau, containing eighteen guineas, four broad pieces, a large sum in Portugal pieces, some silver coin, a gold repeating watch, with superb appendages, several necklaces set with diamonds and other jewels, a great quantity of rich clothes, a pair of gold shoe-buckles, a gold girdle-buckle, a gold coral, and many other articles of value.

Poulter and Brown now set out for London, and having sold the effects to some Jews, in Duke's place, they joined their accomplices at Roberts's house at Bath, where the produce of their booty was divided. The next expedition was to a fair held at Corsham, where Poulter stole a sliver tankard, which he carried to Roberts's house. They now went to Farringdon in Berkshire, in order to wait there for the Coventry carrier, whom they had determined to rob.

After waiting two days, the carrier arrived; and when he left the town in the morning, they followed him, and robbed him of effects to a considerable value.

They next rode to Newbury, where they fraudulently obtained four guineas, his horse and watch, from an unsuspecting countryman; and then returned to their rendezvous at Bath. They endeavoured to force open a house at Bath, but being observed by a man in a state of intoxication, who was casually passing, he exerted the utmost strength of his voice to alarm the neighbourhood, which occasioned the villains to decamp without effecting the intended burglary.

On the following morning, Poulter and some of his companions went to Bristol, where they joined company with a countryman, and defrauded him out of twenty guineas, which he had borrowed of an acquaintance, who kept a shop in the neighbourhood.

Their villainies had now rendered their characters so notorious, and their persons so well known, throughout the west of England, that they determined to decline their former practices, and adopt that of horse stealing. To avoid detection, they were careful not to offer horses to sale in that part of the kingdom where they had stolen them. And they still continued to travel occasionally to Bath, where they spent a great part of their money in Roberts's house.

A customer to Roberts showed him twenty pounds, saying, he had just received it; and Roberts immediately pointed out the man to Poulter, informing him at the same

time of the booty he might acquire by robbing him. Towards night the countryman mounted his horse, and was followed by Poulter, who, holding a tinder-box to him instead of a pistol, demanded his money, which was delivered.

Hereupon they went again to Bristol, and watching an opportunity of lifting up the sash of a gentleman's house, they stole several silver spoons, and some other articles.

One of the gang got unperceived into a watchmaker's house in the same city, while his accomplices waited without, in order to rescue him if he should be detected. He brought from the upper apartments many articles of value, besides a quantity of wearing apparel; and it was some hours before the robbery was discovered.

On the following night, Brown secreted himself in a shed adjoining to a barber's house, into which he made a forcible entry about midnight, and was carrying off some wearing apparel, when he was heard by the barber and his apprentice.

Upon the family being alarmed, Brown got through the garret window to the roof of the house, and remained three hours concealed behind a stack of chimneys. Unable to escape by any other way, he at length resolved to attempt passing through the house: but, while upon the stairs, he was heard by the boy, who ran towards him with a knife in his hand, crying "thieves!"

Alarmed by the boy, the barber's wife came, and, upon Brown assuring her that he had taken shelter in the house in order to avoid the pursuit of bailiffs, she informed him that he might remain there till he could go home in safety; but he deemed it prudent to seize the opportunity of making an immediate retreat.

During the ensuing fair at Bristol, they robbed and defrauded several clothiers, and other dealers, of property to a considerable amount. The produce of these effects being expended in Roberts's house, the gang determined on an expedition into Staffordshire, while they remained in Staffordshire, they stole several horses, which were ta-

ken to Roberts, who sold them at different fairs held at places adjacent to Bath.

An Irishman, named Bush, an intrepid and desperate fellow, who acted as ostler to Roberts, was at length admitted to the gang: and soon afterwards he set out in company with Poulter, towards Towbridge in Wiltshire, with a determination of committing robberies. Meeting a chaise, Bush declared he would rob the passengers; but Poulter objected, thinking his companion inclined to commit murder.

At length he consented to rob the chaise, after it had been agreed that no cruelty should be exercised. It being nearly dark, Poulter thrust his hand through the glass of the chaise, not knowing that it was drawn up, and it being terribly cut, he hastily withdrew it, and his pistol went off by accident. Bush, supposing the fire to proceed from the gentleman in the carriage, discharged his pistol, but without any particular aim. Poulter now called to his companion to desist; and after taking out of the chaise a child, which he kissed and carefully set upon the ground, he robbed Dr. Hancock, of Salisbury, of a guinea and a half, six shillings, a gold watch, some childbed linen, and wearing apparel belonging to his lady.

They now adjourned to a public-house which they had long frequented, and produced the stolen effects to the landlord and his wife; when the latter supplied them with a bag for packing the clothes in. The landlord then drew the charge from a fowling-piece, to furnish them with powder; after which they melted a pewter spoon, and cast two bullets.

Bush asking the woman if she was not terrified at seeing them load their pistols, she said that many pistols had been loaded in her kitchen, without giving her the least alarm; adding, that they would do right to travel as far as they could before break of day, and if they would inform her where they put up, she would transmit them news from Bath.

Leaving this house, they stole a horse at an adjacent farm, and proceeded to Exeter, where they sold the stolen effects to a man who had long carried on an illegal traffic with the whole gang.

Soon after Poulter was apprehended in a public-house, on suspicion of having robbed Doctor Hancock; and being taken before a magistrate, he gave information against his accomplices, mentioning the several places to which they resorted, and recommending the most effectual measures for taking them into custody; particularising those who had been sentenced to transportation, and returned before the expiration of the term of their exile.

While he was under examination, he advised, that the discoveries he had made might be kept profoundly secret, observing, that many persons connected with the gang lived in a reputable manner; and he particularly requested, that the messenger who was ordered to make inquiries at Bath might carefully conceal his business from every person, excepting the mayor.

Notwithstanding this precaution, the messenger had not been at Bath more than an hour, before the names of all the villains were universally known; and, on the following morning, printed lists of them were hawked about the streets.

In consequence of this imprudent conduct, Poulter's accomplices escaped, and the good effects which the public might have derived from his discoveries were, in a great measure, defeated. Great part of the property stolen from Doctor Hancock was restored to that gentleman, who visited Poulter in prison, and assured him, that he would not be a severe prosecutor, and told him, that, if he should be convicted, he would in all probability, be deemed an object deserving the royal clemency. Notwithstanding the doctor's promise he used his utmost endeavours to procure the conviction of Poulter; and even waited upon the judge, to prevent the time of his execution being prolonged. However, he was respited for six weeks.

During his confinement he wrote accounts of a great number of robberies, in which he had been concerned, in divers parts of the kingdom. His discoveries were judged to be of such public importance, that the corporations of Bristol, Bath, Exeter, and Taunton, and many private gentlemen, exerted their utmost interest in his behalf: and it was generally expected that he would receive a pardon, or that the sentence of death would, at least, be mitigated to that of transportation.

He was examined by a gentleman of the law, to whom he related the particulars of the robberies committed by himself and his accomplices, with but very trifling variations from his confession before the magistrate, and what was recited in the papers written by him after his commitment. He behaved with a decency and moderation becoming his unhappy circumstances; but he was, notwithstanding, an object of the implacable enmity of the gaoler. Though he had paid an extraordinary price for the use of a bed, this inhuman villain would allow him only straw to lie upon, even in the most rigorous season of the year, when he was in a state of health that threatened his speedy dissolution.

The cruelty of the gaoler's treatment occasioned some gentleman to write to him, desiring he would allow the prisoner a bed. It was imagined, that the malicious representations of the gaoler induced a gentleman of great interest at court to intercept the Royal mercy, which, it was generally believed, would be extended to Poulter.

A report having been circulated, that he was to be executed on the 1st of March, he wrote to a gentleman, from whom he had experienced many instances of humanity, requesting to be informed whether it was founded in truth, and complained that the gaoler added to his distress, by perpetually reminding him that he must inevitably fall a victim to the law.

His dread of being executed daily increasing, he determined to attempt breaking out of prison: and, having communicated his design to one of the debtors, on Sun-

day the 17th of February, they forced an iron bar out of one of the windows, and escaped. Poulter travelled as far as Glastonbury with one of his irons on; and after disengaging himself from that incumberance, he continued walking all night, although he was extremely weak through long illness, and his legs were galled and swelled in a terrible manner.

In the day they concealed themselves in a hay-rick, and agreed to direct their course towards Wales; but being ignorant of the road, they on Tuesday morning found themselves at Wookey, near Wells. Poulter was so excessively fatigued as to be unable to pursue his journey, and it was therefore agreed, that they should take some repose. They went into an ale-house, where they slept till two o'clock; and they were preparing to depart, when a mason, who lived in the neighbourhood, came to the house for some liquor, and, recollecting the person of Poulter, called to his journeymen to assist in apprehending him. He was secured till the next day, and then conducted back to Ivelchester gaol.

When he was lodged again in prison, nine days of the time for which he was respited remained unexpired: but an express was dispatched to a member of parliament, requesting him to use his interest to obtain an order for his immediate execution.

In consequence of this, an order was issued, commanding the high sheriff to cause the sentence of the law to be inflicted upon Poulter within twenty-four hours after the receipt of the express.——Poulter was greatly shocked, upon learning that the warrant was received for his sudden execution: but he soon recovered his spirits, and endeavoured to atone for past offences by a sincere repentance.

After receiving the sacrament in a very devout manner, he praved with an appearance of great fervency, but still preserved a decent fortitude.

At the place of execution, he solemnly declared to the truth of what he had related respecting his accomplices. He suffered at Ivelchester, on the 25th of February, 1755.

JOHN AYLIFFE, ESQ.

FORGER.

Executed at TYBURN, Nov. 9th, 1759.

THIS unfortunate man was the son of an upper servant with Gerrard Smith, esquire, a gentleman of large fortune near Tockenham, in Wiltshire. After young Ayliffe had been instructed in the first rudiments of learning, he was sent to the celebrated academy at Harrow on the Hill, where he became a good proficient in Latin and Greek.

On his quitting the academy, he acted in the capacity of usher to a boarding-school at Lineham in Wiltshire, where, unknown to her parents, he married the daughter of a clergyman, who had a fortune of 500l. On receipt of this money, he became so extravagant, that he spent the whole in the course of two years; when, being in circumstances of distress, a widow lady, named Horner, took him into her service as house-steward.

In a short time he was appointed land-steward to another lady, who recommended him as a man of abilities to the Hon. Mr. Fox, (afterwards lord Holland) who gave him the place of one of the commissaries of musters in the war-office, by which he acquired the right of adding the title of esquire to his name.

The profits of Ayliffe's new office were so considerable that he was induced to purchase an elegant house in Dorsetshire, which he furnished in a style far too expensive for his rank of life. In other instances, he gave proofs of a strange extravagance of disposition; for he

ran in debt with a number of people, though his income was sufficient to have satisfied the wishes of any reasonable man.

At length, when his creditors became urgent, he had recourse, for a present supply, to some irregular, and very dangerous practices; amongst others he forged a presentation to the valuable rectory of Brinkworth in Wiltshire, which he sold to a young clergyman for a considerable sum. This living being in Mr. Fox's gift, he forged his hand-writing, and that of two subscribing witnesses, with admirable dexterity; but, soon after his affairs becoming desperate, a discovery was made of the fraud.

Hereupon the clergyman took to his bed, and literally died in consequence of that oppression of spirits which is commonly called a broken-heart; for the purchase of the presentation had ruined his circumstances. After his death, the following short note was found in his drawer, directed to "John Ayliffe SATAN, esq.

"Sir,

"I am surprised you can write to me, after you have robbed and most barbarously murdered me. Oh Brinkworth!"

Ayliffe being arrested for debts to the amount of eleven hundred pounds, took refuge in the Fleet-prison, where he forged a deed of gift from Mrs. Horner for four hundred and twenty pounds a year, and three thousand pounds in money. On this deed he raised considerable sums, by a series of artifice and management that is almost without example.

For this forgery he was brought to trial at the Old-Bailey, and capitally convicted; but, in the interval, he was continually representing Mr. Fox as the concealed author of his ruin, to prevent his making discovery of some irregular transactions which he alledged were carried on at the war-office.

He still continued to charge his benefactor with unjustifiable proceedings, in the very moment that he was soliciting his interest to save his life; for, after conviction, he wrote him the following letter:

"Honoured Sir,

"The faults I have been guilty of, shock my very soul, and particularly those towards you; for which I heartily ask pardon both of God and you. The sentence pronounced upon me fills me with horror, such as was never felt by mortal. What can I say? O my good God! that I could think of any thing to induce you to have mercy upon me; or to prevail upon you, good sir, to intercede for my life. I would do any thing, either at home or abroad. For God's sake, good sir, have compassion on your unhappy and unfortunate servant,

JOHN AYLIFFE."

It is also said, that Mr. Fox supported this man during the time of his confinement in Newgate, allowing every thing that his unhappy situation could require.

He was in the utmost agonies during the greater part of the night previous to his execution; but slept about two hours towards the approach of morning. His agitation of mind had brought on a fever, which producing an intolerable thirst, he endeavoured to allay it by drinking large and repeated draughts of water.

On his way to the place of execution these emotions seemed to have subsided; and at the fatal tree he behaved with decency and composure. Some persons present called out "a reprieve?" but he paid no regard to what was said; and his hopes, respecting this life, appeared now to have vanished.

He suffered at Tyburn, on the 7th of November, 1759. His body was put into a hearse, and conveyedinto Hertfordshire for interment, agreeable to his own request.

After his execution a very extraordinary pamphlet was published, called "The Case of John Ayliffe, esq." which contained a great variety of original papers, and was thought, we know not with what justice, to bear very hard on the character of the late Lord Holland. It was bought up by his lordship's friends and agents.

LAURENCE EARL FERRERS,

MURDERER.

Executed at TYBURN, May 5th, 1760.

FROM the royal-blood of the Plantagenets was the family of Ferrers descended, and had been distinguished for ages. One of the family was slain while fighting on behalf of the crown, at the memorable battle of Shrewsbury, in the beginning of the reign of Henry the Fourth: a circumstance that is mentioned by the immortal Shakspear.

The second baronet of this family, Sir Henry Shirley, married one of the daughters of the famous earl of Essex, who was beheaded in the reign of queen Elizabeth; and Sir Robert Shirley, son of Sir Henry, died in the Tower, where he was confined by Oliver Cromwell, for his attachment to the cause of king Charles the First.

Sir Robert's second son succeeding to his title and estate, Charles the Second summoned him to parliament by the title of lord Ferrers of Chartley, as the descendant of one of the coheiresses of Robert earl of Essex, the title having been in abeyance from the death of the said earl, and

precedency of it as high as the 27th year of Edward the First.

In the year 1711, queen Anne created Robert lord Ferrers viscount Tamworth, and earl Ferrers. This nobleman possessed a very large estate, but it was greatly diminished by making provision for his numerous family, which consisted of no less than fifteen sons and twelve daughters, by two wives.

The titles were possessed by the second son of the first earl; as he died without having any son, they fell to the next surviving brother, who was his father's ninth son: but as he did not marry, they fell, on his death, to the tenth son, who was father to Laurence earl Ferrers, a man of unhappy disposition. Though of clear intellects and acknowledged abilities when sober, yet an early attachment to drinking greatly impaired his faculties; and when drunk, his behaviour was that of a madman.

He married the youngest daughter of Sir William Meredith, in the year 1752; but behaved to her with such unwarrantable cruelty, that she was obliged to apply to parliament for redress; the consequence of which was, that an act passed for allowing her a separate maintenance, to be raised out of his estates.

At Derby races, in the year 1756, lord Ferrers ran his mare against captain M———'s horse for 50l. and was the winner. When the race was ended, he spent the evening with some gentlemen, and in the course of conversation the captain (who had heard that his lordship's mare was with foal) proposed, in a jocose manner, to run his horse against her at the expiration of seven months. Lord Ferrers was so affronted by this circumstance, which he conceived to have arisen from a preconcerted plan to insult him, that he quitted Derby at three o'clock in the morning, and went immediately to his seat at Stanton-Harold, in Leicestershire.

He rang his bell as soon as he awaked, and a servant attending, he asked if he knew how captain M——— came

to be informed his mare was with foal. The servant declared that he was ignorant of the matter, but the groom might have told it; and the groom being called, he denied having given any information respecting the matter.

Previous to the affront presumed to have been given on the preceding evening, lord Ferrers had invited the captain and the rest of the company to dine with him as on that day; but they all refused their attendance, though he sent a servant to remind them that they had promised to come. Lord Ferrers was so enraged at this disappointment, that he kicked and horsewipped his servants, and threw at them such articles as lay within his reach.

Some oysters had been sent from London, which not proving good, his lordship directed one of the servants to swear that the carrier had changed them; but the servant declining to take such an oath, the earl flew into a rage, stabbed him in the breast with a knife, cut his head with a candlestick, and kicked him on the groin with such severity, that he was under the surgeon's care for several years afterwards.

Lord Ferrers's brother and his wife paying a visit to him and his countess at Stanton Harold, some dispute arose between the parties; and lady Ferrers being absent from the room, the earl ran up stairs with a large clasp-knife in his hand, and asked a servant whom he met where his lady was. The man said, "in her own room;" and, being directed to follow him thither, lord Ferrers ordered him to load a brace of pistols with bullets. This order was complied with: but the servant, apprehensive of mischief, declined priming the pistols, which lord Ferrers discovering, swore at him, asked him for powder, and primed them himself. He then threatened that if he did not immediately go and shoot his brother the captain, he would blow his brains out. The servant hesitating, his lordship pulled the trigger of one of the pistols, but it missed fire. Hereupon the countess dropped on her knees, and begged him to appease his passion; but in return he swore at her, and threatened her destruction if she op-

posed him. The servant now escaped from the room, and reported what had passed to his lordship's brother, who immediately called his wife from her bed, and they left the house, though it was then two o'clock in the morning.

The unfortunate Mr. Johnson, who fell a sacrifice to the ungovernable passions of lord Ferrers, had been bred up in the family from his youth, and was distinguished for the regular manner in which he kept his accounts, and his fidelity as a steward.

When the law had decreed a separate maintenance for the countess, Mr. Johnson was proposed as receiver of the rents for her use; but he declined this office, till urged to take it on him by the earl himself. It appears that Johnson now stood high in his lordship's opinion; but a different scene soon ensued; for the earl having conceived an opinion that Johnson had combined with the trustees to disappoint him of a contract for coal-mines, he came to a resolution to destroy the honest steward.

The earl's displeasure was first evinced by his sending notice to Johnson to quit a beneficial farm which he held under him; but Johnson producing a lease granted by the trustees, no farther steps were taken in the affair.

After this, lord Ferrers behaved in so affable a manner to Johnson, that the latter imagined all thoughts of revenge had subsided; but on the 13th of January, 1760, his lordship called on Johnson, who lived about half a mile from his seat, and bid him come to Stanton between three and four in the afternoon of the Friday following.

His lordship's family now consisted of a gentlewoman named Clifford, with four of her natural children, three maid servants, and five men servants, exclusive of an old man and a boy.

After dinner, on Friday, lord Ferrers sent all the men-servants out of the house, and desired Mrs. Clifford to go with the children to the house of her father, at the distance of about two miles.

Johnson coming to his appointment, one of the maids let him in, and after waiting some time, he was admitted to his lordship's room, and being ordered to kneel down, he was shot with a pistol, the ball from which entered his body just beneath his ribs.

Lord Ferrers, alarmed at the crime he had committed, now called for the maid servants, and directed them to put Mr. Johnson to bed. He likewise sent to Mr. Kirkland, a surgeon, who lived at Ashby-de-la Zouch, two miles from his seat. At the request of the wounded man, a person was also sent for his children.

Miss Johnson, the eldest daughter, soon came, and was followed by the surgeon, to whom lord Ferrers said, "I intended to have shot him dead, but, since he is still alive, you must do what you can for him."

The surgeon soon found that Johnson had been mortally wounded; but, knowing the earl's fiery disposition, and dreading similar consequences to himself, he dissembled the matter, and told him that there was no danger in the case.

Hereupon the earl drank himself into a state of intoxication, and then went to bed; after which, Mr. Johnson was sent to his own house in a chair, at two o'clock in the morning, and died at nine.

Mr. Kirkland, being convinced that Johnson could not live, procured a number of persons to secure the murderer. When they arrived at Stanton Harold, lord Ferrers was just arisen, and going towards the stables with his garters in his hand, but observing the people, he retired to the house, and shifted from place to place, so that it was a considerable time before he was taken.

This happened on a Saturday, and he was conveyed to Ashby-de-la-Zouch, and confined at the public-house till the Monday following, when the coroner's jury having sat on the body, and delivered a verdict of wilful murder, his lordship was committed to the gaol of Leicester.

After remaining in the above place about a fortnight, he was conveyed to London in his own landeau. He be-

haved with the utmost composure during the journey, and being taken before the house of peers, the verdict of the coroner's jury was read; on which he was committed to the Tower.

His lordship's place of confinement was the round tower, near the draw-bridge. Two wardens constantly attended in his room, and one waited at the door. At the bottom of the stairs two soldiers were placed, with their bayonets fixed, and a third was stationed on the draw-bridge; and the gates of the tower were shut an hour before the usual time, on occasion of his imprisonment.

Mrs. Clifford now brought her four children to London, and taking lodgings in Tower-street, she sent messages to his lordship several times in the day, and answers being sent, the communication became troublesome; so that their messages were forbid to pass more than once in the day.

While in the Tower, lord Ferrers lived in a regular manner. His breakfast consisted of a muffin, and a bason of tea, with a spoonful of brandy in it. After dinner and supper he drank a pint of wine mixed with water. His behaviour in general was very decent, but he sometimes exhibited evident proofs of discomposure of mind. His natural children were permitted to be with him some time; but Mrs. Clifford was denied admittance, after repeated applications.

Preparations being made for lord Ferrers's trial, and lord Henly (the chancellor) being created high steward on the occasion, the trial came on before the house of peers, in Westminster-hall, on the 16th of April, 1760. The proof of the fact was sufficiently clear: but lord Ferrers cross-examined the witnesses in such a manner, as gave sufficient proof of the sanity of his mind, of which some doubts had been entertained.

Being found guilty by the unanimous voice of the peers of Great Britain, the lord high steward passed sentence that he should be executed on the 21st of April, but his sentence was respited to the 5th of May.

While in the Tower, lord Ferrers left sixty pounds a year to Mrs. Clifford, a thousand pounds to each of his natural daughters, and thirteen hundred pounds to the children of Mr. Johnson; but this last legacy, which should have been the first discharged, was never received.

This unhappy nobleman petitioned to be beheaded within the Tower: but as the crime was so atrocious, the king refused to mitigate the sentence. A scaffold was erected under the gallows at Tyburn, and covered with black baize; and a part of this scaffold, on which he was to stand, was raised about eighteen inches above the rest.

About nine o'clock on the morning of execution, the sheriffs attended at the Tower-gate; and lord Ferrers being told they were come, requested that he might go in his own landeau, instead of a mourning-coach, which had been prepared for him. No objection being made to this request, he entered the landeau, attended by the Rev. Mr. Humphries, chaplain of the Tower. His lordship was dressed in a white suit, richly embroidered with silver, and when he put it on, he said—"This is the suit in which I was married, and in which I will die.

Mr. Sheriff Vaillant joined them at the Tower-gate, and taking his seat in the landeau, told his lordship how disagreeable it was to wait on him on so aweful an occasion, but that he would endeavour to render his situation as little irksome as possible.

The procession now moved slowly through an immense crowd of spectators. On their way, lord Ferrers asked Mr. Vaillant if he had ever seen such a crowd: the sheriff replied in the negative; to which the unhappy peer replied—"I suppose it is because they never saw a lord hanged before."

The chaplain observing that the public would be naturally inquisitive about his lordship's religious opinions: he replied—"That he did not think himself accountable to the world for his sentiments on religion; but that he always believed in one God the maker of all things; that

whatever were his religious notions, he had never propagated them; that all countries had a form of religion, by which the people were governed, and whoever disturbed them in it, he considered as an enemy to society: that he thought lord Bolingbroke to blame, for permitting his sentiments on religion to be published to the world."—And he made other observations of a like nature.

Respecting the death of Mr. Johnson, he said—"he was under particular circumstances, and had met with so many crosses and vexations, that he scarce knew what he did;" but declared that he had no malice against the unfortunate man.

So immense was the crowd, that it was near three hours before the procession reached the place of execution; on the way to which, lord Ferrers desired to stop to have a glass of wine and water; but the sheriff osberving that it would only draw a greater crowd about him, he replied—"that is true, by no means stop." He likewise observed, that the preliminary apparatus of death produced more terror than death itself.

At Tyburn he expressed a wish to take a final leave of Mrs. Clifford; but the sheriff advised him to decline it, as it would disarm him of the fortitude he possessed: to which he answered—"If you, sir, think I am wrong, I submit:" after which he gave the sheriff a pocket-book, containing a bank-note, with a ring, aud a purse of guineas, which were afterwards delivered to the unhappy woman.

The procession was attended by a party of horse-grenadiers and foot-guards, and at the place of execution was met by another party of horse, whioh formed a circle round the gallows.

His lordship walked up the steps of the scaffold with great composure, and having joined with the chaplain in repeating the Lord's prayer, which he called a fine composition, he spoke the following words with great fervency—"O God, forgive me all my errors; pardon all my sins!"

He then presented his watch to Mr. Vaillant, and gave five guineas to the assistant of the executioner, by mistake, instead of giving them to himself. The master demanding the money, a dispute arose between the parties, which might have discomposed the dying man, had not the sheriff exerted his authority to put an end to it.

The executioner now proceeding to do his duty, lord Ferrers's neckcloth was taken off, a white cap, which he had brought in his pocket, put on his head, his arms secured with a black sash, and the halter put round his neck. He then ascended the raised part of the scaffold, and the cap being pulled over his face, the sheriff gave a signal, on which the raised scaffold was struck, and remained level with the rest.

After hanging an hour and five minutes, the body was received in a coffin lined with white satin, and conveyed to Surgeons'-hall, where an incision was made from the neck to the bottom of the breast, and the bowels were taken out; on inspection of which, the surgeons' declared that they had never beheld greater signs of long life in any subject which had come under their notice.

His lordship's hat and halter lay near his feet in the coffin, on the lid of which were these words—"Laurence Earl Ferrers, suffered May 5th, 1760." After the body had remained some time at Surgeons'-hall, for public inspection, it was delivered to his friends for interment. But it would be unjust to his memory, not to mention that, during his imprisonment, he had made pecuniary recompence to several persons whom he had injured, during the extravagance of those passions to which he was unhappily subject.

SARAH LLOYD,

ACCESSARY.

Executed at BURY, April 23d, 1800.

THIS unfortunate young woman, who fell a victim to the laws of her country, was accused of having introduced a man into the house of her mistress, who robbed and afterwards set it on fire. This unhappy woman's case occupied much attention; she was generally considered as the instrument made use of by a designing villain, and having a most excellent character, it excited a very strong interest in the neighbourhood.

Being convicted of larceny only to the value of forty shillings, at Bury assizes, April, 1800, and condemned—she was left for execution. A petition was immediately signed, most respectably and numerously, for her respite and pardon; but the Duke of Portland deeming the application to arise from ill-judged humanity, sent down a king's messenger to order her execution. Among the persons who interested themselves the most on this occasion, was that very respectable magistrate Mr. Capel Loffft, who addressed the following letter to the Monthly Magazine, setting forth her case and proving her an object of mercy.

SIR,

"Give me leave to caution you against an implicit credit in the accounts published in most of the public pa-

pers, respecting the case of the unhappy Sarah Lloyd. This much only I will say at present—a most extraordinary and most affecting case it is. I have never heard of one more so—I have never known one in any degree so much so. I was on the grand jury which found the two bills of indictment. I was in court at the trial. I am happy, yet perhaps I ought not to say so, that I was not in court when sentence of death was pronounced upon her.

I have visited her several times, since she has been in prison, with several respectable persons, and particularly with a lady of very superior understanding; and, who struck with her mild and ingenuous countenance, the modesty, unhesitating clearness, simplicity and ingenuous character of all she says; her meek and constant fortitude, and her modest resignation, has interested herself greatly in behalf of this young and most singularly unhappy woman. She was indicted for a burglarous robbery in the dwelling house of her mistress.

She was convicted of larceny alone to the value of forty shillings. And under what circumstances it will be proper to state more fully hereafter. The jury acquitted her of the burglarious part of the charge and thereby negatived any previous knowledge on her part of a felonious intent of any person. The other indictment for malicious housefiring was not even tried. Unhappily perhaps for her that it was not. It seems but too certain that she will suffer death on Wednesday next; and from any thing that I can yet learn, I should fear a numerously and respectably signed petition will not even find its way to the king while she yet lives.

I write only thus much at present; that if you state the supposed facts which have been so widely diffused against her, and have made so dreadful an impression, you may also state these remarks; which have for their object merely that the public would suspend their judgment till a full and correct statement be laid before them, as it necessarily must; and that in the mean time at least the public will not conclude her guilty of more than that of

which she solely stands convicted and attaint on the record--the larceny only. And as to the nature and degree of her guilt, even upon that, they will estimate it according to the circumstances, when fully before them.

Then perhaps they will have no cause to wonder that efforts have been made, as they have certainly been, with most persevering anxiety, to obtain a mitigation of her sentence, so far as it effects her life: nor that the prosecutrix, the committing magistrate—the foreman and several others of the grand jury, and many persons of true respectibility, have concurred in these efforts, and particularly persons in whose service she has lived, and who speak of her temper, disposition, character and conduct, in terms every way honourbly. I remain, &c.

CAPEL LOFFT."

Troston, April 21st.

In another letter this gentleman gives an account of her person, execution, &c. as follows.

" Respecting the case of Sarah Lloyd, what ought now further to be said, I wish that I felt myself capable of saying as it deserves. I have reason to think that she was not quite nineteen. She was rather low of stature, of a pale complexion, to which, anxiety and near seven months imprisonment had given a yellowish tint.

Naturally she appears to have been fair, as when she coloured, the colour naturally diffused itself. Her countenance was very pleasing, of a meek and modest expression perfectly characteristic of a mild affectionate temper. She had large eyes and eyelids, a short and well-formed nose, an open forehead, of a grand and ingenuous character, and very regular and pleasing features: her hair darkish brown, and her eyebrows rather darker than her hair; she had an uncommon and unaffected sweetness in her voice and manner. She seemed to be above impatience or discontent, fear or ostentation, exempt from selfish

emotion, but attentive with pure sympathy to those whom her state and the affecting singularity of her case and her uniformly admirable behaviour interested in her behalf.

When asked, April 23, 1800, the morning on which she suffered, how she had slept the preceding night, she said, not well the beginning, but quite well the latter part of the night She took an affectionate, but composed and even cheerful leave of her fellow-prisoners and rather gave them comfort than needed to receive it,

It was a rainy and windy morning. She accepted of, and held over her head, an umbrella, which I brought with me, and without assistance, though her arms were confined, steadily supported it all the way from the prison, not much less than a mile.

What I said at the place of execution, if it had been far better said than I was then able to express myself under the distress I felf, would have been little in comparison of the effect of her appearance and behaviour on the whole assembly. That effect, none, who were not present, can imagine. Before this I never attended an execution, but it was indeed a duty to attend this, and to give the last testimony of esteem to a young person, whose behaviour after her sentence (I had not seen her before; for in Court she was concealed from me by the surrounding crowd) had rendered her so deserving of every possible attention.

Those who have been accustomed to such distressing observations remarked that the executioner, though used to his dreadful office, appeared exceedingly embarrassed, and was uncommonly slow in those preparations which immediately precede the fatal moment, and which, in such a kind of death are a severe trial of the fortitude of the strongest and most exalted mind, and much the more so as they tend to destroy the sympathy resulting from the associated ideas of dignity in suffering; yet she dignified by her deportment every humiliating circumstance of this otherwise most degrading of deaths, and maintained an unaltered equanimity and recollectedness, herself as-

sisting in putting back her hair and adjusting the instrument of death to her neck.

There was no platform nor any thing in a common degree suitable to supply the want of one; yet this very young and wholly uneducated woman, naturally of a very tender disposition, and from her mild and amiable temper, accustomed to be treated as their child in the families in which she had lived, and who consequently had not learned fortitude from experience either of danger or hardship, and in prison the humanity of Mr. Orridge had been parental towards her, appeared with a serenity that seemed more than human; and when she gave the signal, there was a recollected gracefulness and sublimity in her manner that struck every heart, and is above words or idea.

I was so very near to her the whole time, that near-sighted as I am, I can fully depend on the certainty of my information.

After she had been suspended more than a minute, her hands were twice evenly and gently raised, and gradually let to fall without the least appearance of convulsive or involuntary motion, in a manner which could hardly be mistaken, when interpreted, as designing to signify content and resignation.

At all events, independently of this circumstance, which was noticed by many, her whole conduct evidently showed, from this temper of mind, a composed, and even cheerful submission to the views and will of heaven; a modest unaffected submission entirely becoming her age, her sex, and situation." Here the writer, referring to an account in the Ipswich paper, observes: "The word accomplice is used,—whoever admits a man was concerned, will see reason to regard that man as far more than an accomplice. I believe it were not impossible (but would indeed be nearly inevitable) for any attentive mind, weighing the circumstances of this, perhaps, unexampled case, to come to the same conclusion which has long impressed itself on mine.

That conclusion leaves to her a share of the guilt, which is indeed "comparative innocence," and the verdict of the jury, who, I believe, in that verdict thought they had saved her life, imports not a greater share. Yet they knew nothing of the admirable character which has been given of her by those in whose service she had longest lived, viz. Mr. Johnson, of Bildeston, grocer and linen-draper; Mr. Henry, farmer; from Midsummer 1795, to Michaelmas 1797, for the best temper, a meek, peaceable, quiet disposition; honesty, modesty, uniformly good behaviour in all respects; freedom not only from blame, but from any circumstances tending to suspicion of it.

The jury knew of her character only by her affecting appeal to Mrs. Syer the prosecutrix herself. For she had not been sending after those who could speak to her character during her confinement, and therefore being asked, she answered she did not know whether there was any, meaning, certainly, in court, except it was Mrs. Syer. And the jury, under the circumstances of no evidence being given against the other party indicted, had not the usual means, which, where two persons are indicted, a jury almost constantly has, of forming some estimate of the proportion of guilt which may belong to either; nor could they even see, or perhaps under those circumstances, imagine, how peculiar her case was, even as to that for which she was convicted, infinitely the smallest part of the charge which the two indictments contained.

I do not, therefore, arrange the verdict of the jury; the verdict could not be otherwise; it was just, it was discriminating, it was humanely considerate, and, I think, I say nothing which is unbecoming when I say this, that although the verdict, and the consequent sentence were according to law, death being the sentence under the statute of Anne, the case was such as had a strong, and I think, almost singular plea for the extenuation of mercy. The force and nature of this plea, which appeared imperfectly at the trial, and at the same time of passing sentence, more and more developed itself progressively to the last.

I shall ever deeply regret that it did not appear so to the judge, and most of all, that when, by the Bill of Rights, it is declared that it is the right of the subject to petition; that in this instance there is reason to conclude, that a petition, though in behalf of life, and numerously and most respectably signed, was, notwithstanding, never presented to the king!!! I would rather suffer any thing than have this omission to impute to myself.

I remain, &c.

CAPEL LOFFT."

Troston, May 19th.

Such, however, were the exaggerations of the London printers, which ascribed to this unfortunate woman all the crime, that we need not wonder there was no attention paid to the petition.

The following is an extract of one, (*Times*, April 11,) by which the reader will see quite a different representation from the above:—" The circumstances attending the case of Sarah Lloyd are perhaps unequalled for the atrocious intentions of the perpetrator, who was a servant to a very respectable lady, residing at Hadleigh, named Syer. On the 3d of October last, she set her mistress's house on fire in four different places, and robbed her of some considerable property. Her intention was the destruction of her protectress, for, to prevent the escape of her mistress, the principal combustibles were placed under a stair-case which led to her mistress's bed-room, and but for the timely assistance of the neighbourhood, she would have perished in the fire."

The incendiary and intended murder, here asserted as facts of her deep ingratitude and base depravity, were neither tried nor proved—and of the burglary she was acquitted, which acquittal must also acquit her of the other charges.

JAMES MACLANE,

HIGHWAYMAN.

Executed at TYBURN, Oct. 3d, 1750.

THIS malefactor was descended from a reputable family in the north of Scotland: but his father having been liberally educated in the university of Glasgow, went to settle at Monaghan, in the north of Ireland, as preacher to a congregation of dissenters in that place, where he married and had two sons; the elder of whom was bred to the church, and preached many years to the English congregation at the Hague, and was equally remarkable for his learning and the goodness of his heart.

This, his younger son, was about eighteen years of age when his father died, and the old gentleman having bequeathed his effects to him, he dissipated all before he had attained his twentieth year. In this dilemma he applied for relief to his mother's relations, with a view to fit him out for the naval service; but as they refused to assist him, he entered into the service of a gentleman named Howard, with whom he came to London.

Soon after his arrival in the metropolis he abandoned his service; and returning to Ireland, he again solicited the assistance of his mother's relations, who were either unwilling or unable to afford him relief. He was, however, assisted by his brother at the Hague, till his expences began to be too considerable for a continued support from that quarter: hereupon he found it necessary to procure some employment; and making interest with a military

gentleman who had known his father, he recommended him to a colonel who had a country seat near Cork. This gentleman engaged him as a butler; and he continued a considerable time in his service, till, secreting some effects, he was dismissed with disgrace, and rendered unable to procure another place in that part of the kingdom.

Now reduced to circumstances of distress, he conceived an idea of entering into the Irish brigade in the service of France, and communicated his intention to a gentleman, who advised him to decline all thoughts of such a procedure, as he could have no prospect of rising in his profession, unless he changed his religion; a circumstance that he would not consent to, for he still retained some sense of the pious education he had received.

Notwithstanding the colonel abovementioned had dismissed him his service, yet fearing that his desperate circumstances might induce him to father acts of dishonesty he entrusted him with the care of his baggage to London; and Maclane wishing to enter as a private man in lord Albemarle's troop of horse guards, solicited the colonel to advance him the necessary sum to procure his admission. The colonel seemed willing to favour his scheme; but thinking it dangerous to trust the money in his hands, he committed it to the care of an officer belonging to the troop, which was then in Flanders. Every thing was prepared; and his credentials were ready for his joining the troop, when he suddenly declined all thoughts of entering into the army. His ruling passion was dress, as an introduction to the company of women; and having received about fifty pounds from some females of more good-nature than sense, under pretence of fitting himself out for a West India voyage, he expended the greater part of it in elegant clothes, and commenced a professed fortune-hunter.

At length he married the daughter of Mr. Macglegno, a horse-dealer, with whom he received five hundred pounds, and he commenced the business of a grocer, in

Welbeck-street, Cavendish-square, and supported his family with some degree of credit till the expiration of three years, when his wife died, leaving two infant daughters to the care of her relatives, who kindly undertook to provide for them.

Hitherto Maclane's character among his neighbours was unimpeached: but soon after the death of his wife, he sold his stock in trade and furniture, and assumed the character of a fine gentleman, in the hope of engaging the attention of some lady of fortune, to which he thought himself entitled by the gracefulness of his person, and the elegance of his appearance. At the end of about six months he had expended all his money, and became very unhappy from reflecting on that change of fortune that would probably reduce him to his former state of servitude.

While in this state of dejection, an Irish apothecary, named Plunkett, visited him, and enquired into the cause of his despondency. Maclane acknowledged the reduced state of his finances; candidly confessed that he had no money left, nor knew any way of raising a shilling but by the disposal of his wearing apparel: "I thought, (rejoined the apothecary,) you had some spirit and resolution, with some knowledge of the world. A brave man has a right to live, and not want the conveniencies of life, while the dull, plodding, busy knaves carry cash in their pocket. We must draw upon them to supply our wants: there needs only impudence, and getting the better of a few idle scruples; there is scarce any courage necessary. All we have to deal with are mere poltroons."

These arguments co-operated so forcibly with the poverty of Maclane, that he entered into conversation with Plunkett on the subject of going on the highway; and at length they entered into a solemn agreement to abide by each other in all adventures, and to share the profit of their depredations to the last shilling: nor does it appear that either of them ever defrauded the other.

Their first robbery was on Hounslow-heath, where they stopped a grazier on his return from Smithfield, and

took from him about sixty pounds. This money being soon spent in extravagance, they were induced to take a ride on the St. Alban's road, and seeing a stage-coach coming forward, they agreed to ride up on the opposite sides of the carriage. Maclane's fears induced him to hesitate; and when Plunkett ordered the driver to stop, it was with the utmost trepidation that the other demanded the money of the passengers.

On their return to London at night, Plunkett censured him as a coward, and told him that he was unfit for his business. This had such an effect on him, that he soon afterwards went out alone, and unknown to Plunkett; and having robbed a gentleman of a large sum, he returned and shared it with his companion. Afterwards he stopped and robbed the honourable Horace Walpole, (late Lord Orford) and his pistol accidentally went off during the attack.

For some time did he continue this irregular mode of life, during which he paid two guineas a week for his lodgings, and lived in a style of elegance, which he accounted for by asserting that he had an estate in Ireland which produced seven hundred pounds a year; while his children were under the care of his mother-in-law, whom he seldom visited.

On a particular occasion he narrowly escaped the hands of justice, which terrified him so much, that he went to Holland on a visit to his brother, who received him with every mark of fraternal affection; and though unsuspecting the mode in which he lived, but having too much reason to fear that he was of a dissipated turn of mind, gave him the best advice for the regulation of his future conduct.

Having remained in Holland till he presumed his transactions in this country were in some measure forgotten, he returned to England, renewed his depredations on the public, and lived in a style of the utmost elegance. He frequented all the public places, was well known at the gaming-houses, and was not unfrequent in his visits to la-

dies of easy virtue. The speciousness of his behaviour, the gracefulness of his person, and the elegance of his appearance, combined to make him a welcome visitor even at the houses of women of character; and he had so far ingratiated himself into the affections of a young lady, that her ruin would probably have been the consequence of their connexion, but that a gentleman casually hearing of this affair, and knowing that Maclane's highest character was that of a sharper, interposed his timely advice, and saved her from destruction.

Hereupon his visits were forbidden; a circumstance that chagrined him so much, that he sent a challenge to the gentleman, which was treated with a just degree of contempt that aggravated his vexation. Encouraged by his repeated successes on the road, Maclane was thrown off his guard; he became every day more free to commit robbery, and less apprehensive of detection: for he imagined that Plunkett's turning evidence could alone affect him; and he had no doubt of the fidelity of his accomplice.

On the 26th of June, 1750, these confederates riding out together, met the earl of Eglington in a post-chaise beyond Hounslow, when Maclane advancing to the post-boy, commanded him to stop, but placed himself in a direct line before the driver, lest his lordship should shoot him with a blunderbuss, with which he always travelled; for he was sensible that the Peer would not fire so as to endanger the life of the post-boy. In the interim Plunkett forced a pistol through the glass at the back of the chaise, and threatened instant destruction unless his Lordship threw away the blunderbuss.

His Lordship's dangerous situation rendered compliance necessary, and he was robbed of his money and a surtout coat; and after the carriage drove forward, Maclane took up the coat and blunderbuss. The same day they stopped the Salisbury stage, and took two portmanteaus, which, with the booty they had already obtained, were conveyed to Maclane's lodgings in Pall-Mall, where the plunder was shared.

Immediately notice of this robbery was given in the newspapers, and the articles stolen were described; yet Maclane was so much off his guard, that he stripped the lace from a waistcoat, the property of one of the gentlemen who had been robbed, and happened to carry it for sale to the laceman of whom it had been purchased.

He also went to a salesman in Monmouth-street, named Loader, who attended him to his lodgings, but had no sooner seen what clothes he had to sell, than he knew them to be those which had been advertised; and pretending that he had not money enough to purchase them, said he would go home for more; instead of which he procured a constable, apprehended Maclane, and took him before a magistrate. Many persons of rank, of both sexes, attended his examination; several of whom were so affected with his situation, that they contributed liberally towards his present support.

Being committed to the Gatehouse, he requested a second examination before the magistrate, when he confessed all that was alledged against him; and his confession was taken in writing. On this he was recommitted to prison, and during his confinement a gentleman wrote to his brother at the Hague a narrative of his unhappy case, to which the following answer was sent.

"Utrecht, August 16th, N. S. 1750.

"SIR,

"I received your melancholy letter; but the dismal news it contained had reached me before it arrived, as I have been happily absent from the Hague some time. I never thought that any belonging to me would have loaded me with such heart-breaking affliction, as the infamous crimes of him, whom I will call brother no more, have brought upon me. How often, and how solemnly, have I admonished him of the miserable consequences of an idle life, and alas! to no purpose! However that be, I

have made all the interest possible for his life; filled with shame and confusion, that I have been obliged to make demands so contrary to justice, and hardly knowing with what face to do it, in the character I bear as a minister of truth and righteousness.

It is the interest of some friends I have made here, that can only save his life; they have lost no time in applying, and I hope their endeavours will be successful; but I still hope more, that if Providence should order events, as that he escapes the utmost rigour of the law, and has that life prolonged which he deserves not to enjoy any longer, I hope, or rather wish, that in such a case he may have a proper sense and feeling of his enormous crimes, which lay an ample foundation for drawing out the wretched remainder of his days in sorrow and repentance.

With respect to me, it would give me consolation, if I could hope that this would be the issue of his trial; it would comfort me on his account as he is a man, because I will never acknowledge him in any nearer relation, and because, except such good offices as former ties and present humanity demand from me in his behalf, I am determined never to have any farther correspondence with him during this mortal life. I have given orders to look towards his subsistence, and what is necessary for it.

I am obliged to you, Sir, for your attention in communicating to me this dismal news, and shall willingly embrace any opportunity of shewing myself, Sir, your most obedient, &c.

"P. S. If you see this my unhappy brother, let him know my compassion for his misery, as well as my indignation against his crimes; and also that I shall omit nothing in my power to have his sufferings mitigated. He has, I fear, broke my heart, and will make me drag out the rest of my days in sorrow."

At the next sessions at the Old Bailey, Maclane was indicted, and pleading "Not Guilty;" read a paper that had been drawn up for him, tending to extenuate his crimes: but his confession being produced against him, and much corroborative proof arising, the jury found him guilty without quitting the court. The chief evidence were the things found in his lodgings, among which were the coat and blunderbuss he had taken from Lord Eglington: his lordship, however, did not appear against him.

When brought up to receive sentence of death, and asked, as is customary, what he had to say for himself, he made an essay to address the court; but his powers failing, he only exclaimed "My lord, I cannot speak!"

Having been educated as a dissenter, he was attended, at his own request, by Dr. Allen, a reverend divine of the Presbyterian persuasion. When the doctor first visited him, he found him in a state of dreadful dejection of mind, but by no means an infidel with respect to religious matters. He confessed that his companions had reprobated the doctrines of Christianity; but, for his part, he had always believed them, however contrary to them he had acted: and he attributed this faith to the religious education he had received.

The doctor remarking that the paper he had read at his trial was no proof of his penitence, he said an attorney had advised him to make that defence, and he thought himself justified in such an attempt to preserve his life. He confessed that he entertained but small hope of a reprieve; and being told that the number of robberies then lately committed by persons of genteel appearance seemed to preclude any hope, he submitted with great resignation, wished that his fate might afford a warning to the young and thoughtless, and earnestly exclaimed, "Glad should I be, as my life hath been vile, my death might be useful!"

He behaved still more composed than before, after the arrival of the warrant for his execution. Some gentle-

men having brought a letter from Maclane's brother in Holland, Dr. Allen delivered it to him in their presence, on the day before his execution. On the receipt of it, he exclaimed, "O my dear brother! I have broke his heart!" After hesitating some time, he said, "I have been long acquainted with sorrow, and, cutting as this letter will be to my heart, I will read it." Observing the first words in it to be "Unhappy brother!" he cried, "Unhappy, indeed!" and then read the letter with as much composure as his conflicting passions would permit.

Having spent the last night in devotion, he prepared to meet his fate with decent resignation. The next morning, he received the sacrament, and when going to the place of execution, it was observed that his behaviour was uncommonly penitent.

After the cap was drawn over his eyes, he said, "O God! forgive my enemies, bless my friends, and receive my soul!"

He suffered at Tyburn, October 3d, 1750.

WILLIAM PAGE,

HIGHWAYMAN.

Executed at MAIDSTONE, April 6th, 1758.

THIS malefactor was the son of a farmer at Hampton, and being a boy of promising parts, was sent to London to the care of his cousin, who was a haberdasher, and who engaged to see him educated.

His kinsman sent him to school, where he soon distinguished himself beyond his associates, not only in dexterity at such games as children amuse themselves with, but in all the little arts of defraud; so that his school-fellows were afraid to engage with one who possessed such superiority of address and management.

A few particulars in the early part of Page's life we now recite, on account of their singularity: not that we would have any attention paid to the old proverb, which says, that "he that is born to be hanged, will never be drowned.

During the hard frost, in the winter of 1739, Page was sliding with other boys on the canal in St. James's park, when the ice broke under him, and he sunk; and the ice immediately closing over him, he must have perished; but just at this juncture the ice again broke with another boy near him, and Page rose precicely at the vacancy made by the latter, who was drowned; but Page was saved.

In the summer following this singular escape, Page was trying to swim with corks in the Thames, when they slip-

ped from under his arms, and he sunk; but a waterman got him up, and he soon recovered.

Going up the river on a party of pleasure, about five years afterwards, with several other young fellows, the boat over-set with them in Chelsea-reach, and every one in the boat was drowned, except Page.

On a voyage to Scotland, about eighteen months after this escape, the ship in which he sailed foundered in Yarmouth-roads, and most of the people on board perished; but another vessel, observing their distress, sent out a long-boat, by the help of which Page and a few others saved their lives.

His relation, the haberdasher, employed him in his shop; but he greatly neglected his business to attend the arts of dress. He was such a consummate coxcomb, that he was perpetually employing tailors to alter his clothes to any new fashion he had seen. This being observed by his kinsman, he directed the tailors in the neighbourhood not to receive his orders. Thus disappointed, our hero procured a dark lantern, which he secreted under his bed, and when all the family were asleep, he used to alter his clothes, to make them resemble the fashions then prevailing.

His relation observing this his strong propensity to be a coxcomb, abridged him of those pecuniary allowances he had hitherto granted him; which tempted Page to rob the till; and the first offence he committed of this kind was, to discharge a pretended debt for which a woman with whom he was acquainted had been arrested by a fellow who was connected with her.

This robbery was not discovered for some days; and when it was, all the servants were taxed with it, though Page was least suspected; and on his steady denial of it, the matter was suffered to rest for the present, though the money missing was above fifteen pounds. The kinsman, however, with a view to discover the thief, marked several guineas, which he put into the till; and they were soon afterwards taken out by Page. The money being

missed, the master went to the chamber of each servant at night, and at length found it in Page's pocket: the consequence of which was, that he was turned out of the house immediately.

Thus distressed, he repaired to his female acquaintance, who seemed ready to receive him with caresses; but understanding what had happened, she caused her bullies to drive him from the house, exclaiming that "it was no receptacle for thieves; and that she would not run the risk of having her lodgings searched for such a wretch."

Thus repulsed, where he had the greatest expectation of shelter and protection, he wandered the streets for some hours, irresolute how to dispose of himself. On the following day, he went to Greenwich; but being totally destitute of money, and almost starving, he resolved to write to his relation to beg pardon for past faults.

Having pawned two handkerchiefs, he purchased some provision, and then wrote the letter, which he carried to London. This letter so affected the kinsman, that he wrote him an answer, and sent him a guinea for present supply: but to show his detestation of the crime, intimated that he would prosecute him for the robbery, if he presumed to make a second application.

On receipt of the money, Page exclaimed "I shall not starve yet!" but such was his improvidence, that he immediately went to the vile woman with whom he had been connected, and by the next day the guinea was spent: however, she prevailed on him to write to his relation for a fresh supply.

Thus was the worst step he could have taken: for the kinsman, having this palpable proof of his extravagance, refused him all farther assistance.—Thus reduced, he went to his father; but the kinsman having written an account of his irregular conduct, the father insisted on his leaving the house immediately, or he would have him taken into custody as a vagabond.

Hereupon Page travelled a few miles to a relation, who clothed him, gave him money, and advised him to go to

London, and seek a service; but, conscious of his want of character, he went to York, where he got connected with a company of strolling players.

In this situation he had some success. He played Polydore and Castalio, and being almost beardless, performed some women's parts without censure. Soon afterwards, he attempted the part of Cato; but being quite drunk, he fell speechless on the stage, while repeating the famous soliloquy; and being carried off by the other actors, he could never recover his credit with the audience, and was dismissed the company.

From York he went to Scarborough, intending to have joined with a theatrical band at that place, but there was no vacancy to admit of his service. Thus disappointed, he repaired to a gaming-table, where he employed a few guineas, which he had brought from York, and soon won two hundred; but, by a pursuit of the game, he soon lost all his money.

Thus distressed, a gentleman offered to take him to London in the character of a livery servant.—Page hesitated for some time; but his necessity obliging him to accept the offer, he put on the livery suit. Several persons who had seen him appear as a gentleman at Scarborough, still treated him as such, presuming that a frolic had given rise to the metamorphosis; but they were soon undeceived by his master, who told them the true state of the case.

When the gentleman and his new servant came near London, they were robbed by a highwayman; and Page hearing of several exploits performed by the same man, within a few weeks, (as he supposed by the description of his dress) thence conceived the first idea of going on the highway: but he lived above a year with his master after this, giving no reason to suspect his fidelity.

When he quitted this master, he recommended him to another; but an infectious disorder obliged him to quit this second service, and seek a cure in an hospital, where he became acquainted with a woman under the like predicament.

Happening both to be discharged on the same day, they took lodgings near Charing-Cross, and lived together for some time, till at length, reduced to poverty, Page commenced highwayman, and the woman became a street-walker.

Page's first expedition was on the Kentish road; and meeting the Canterbury stage near Shooter's hill, he robbed the passengers of watches and money to the amount of about thirty pounds, and then riding through great part of Kent, to take an observation of the cross roads, he returned to London.

He now took lodgings near Grosvenor-square, and frequenting the billiard-tables, won a little money, which, added to his former stock, prevented his having recourse to the highway again for a considerable time.

At length he met with a gambler, who being more expert than himself, stripped him of all his money; on which he again commenced highwayman; but for some nights did not obtain a single booty.

At length he stopped a post-chaise near Hampton Court, and robbed a gentleman and lady of ten guineas and their watches; he took a valuable diamond ring from the gentleman, which he afterwards returned, on a reward of fifteen guineas being offered for it.

This success encouraging him to proceed in his depredations, he became more bold, and having acquired about £. 200 on the highway, he took lodgings in Lincoln's-inn, passed as a student of the law, and became acquainted with several young gentlemen who were pursuing their studies in the same place.

He now learnt to dance: and having possessed himself of some modern literary knowledge, by the help of circulating libraries, he frequented the assemblies of Sunning-hill, Richmond, Hampstead, &c. and ladies began to look on him with distinction.

At Hampstead he became acquainted with a young lady, who conceived a great affection for him: and her father approving the addresses of Page, the wedding-clothes

were bought, and other preparations made for the nuptials, when the lady's father happening to go casually into the shop of Page's relation, a scene ensued which entirely disconcerted the plan. The kinsman remarking to an acquaintance, that he had seen Page in a laced coat, the gentleman was tempted to make a particular inquiry; the result of which was, that he found the new-made beau to be the very party that was to be married to his daughter: whereupon Page was forbid all farther visits, to the regret of the young lady, who still considered him as a man of superior accomplishments.

By this time Page had drawn, for his own observation, and for his private use, a most curious map of the roads twenty miles round London; and driving in a phaeton and pair, he was not suspected for a highwayman.

In his excursions for robbery, he used to dress in a laced or embroidered frock, and wear his hair tied behind. When at a distance from London, he would turn into some unfrequented place, and having disguised himself in other clothes, with a grizzle or black wig, and then saddling one of his horses, ride to the main road and commit a robbery. This done, he hastened back to the carriage; resumed his former dress, and drove to London. He was frequently cautioned to be on his guard against a highwayman, who might meet and rob him: "No, no, (said he) he cannot do it a second time, unless he robs me of my coat and shirt, for he has taken all my money already.

He had once an escape of a very remarkable kind. Having robbed a gentleman near Putney, some persons came up at the juncture, and pursued him so closely, that he was obliged to cross the Thames for his security. In the interim, some haymakers crossing the field where Page's carriage was left, found and carried off his gay apparel; and the persons who had pursued him meeting them, charged them with being accomplices in the robbery. A report of this affair being soon spread, Page heard of it, and throwing his clothes into a well, went back almost

naked, claimed the carriage as his own, and declared that the men had stripped him, and thrown him into a ditch.

All the parties now went before a justice of the peace; and the maker of the carriage appearing, and declaring that it was the property of Mr. Page, the poor haymakers were committed for trial; but obtained their liberty after the next assizes, as Page did not appear to prosecute.

After this he made no farther use of the phaeton as a disguise for his robberies; but it served him occasionally on parties of pleasure, which he sometimes took with a girl whom he had then in keeping.

Page was passionately fond of play, and his practice this way was attended with various turns of fortune, as must be the case with all gamblers. One night he went to the masquerade with only ten guineas, and won above five hundred pounds, and this money was no sooner in his possession, than a lady, most magnificently dressed, made some advances to him, on which he put the most favourable construction.

After some conversation, she told him, that her mother was a widow, who would not admit of his visits; but that possibly he might prevail on her attendant, whose husband was a reputable tradesman, to give them admission to his house. Page, who had repeatedly heard the other address her by the title of "My Lady," became very importunate with the good woman to grant this favour. At length all parties agreed; the servants were called; Page handed the lady and her attendant into a coach, on which was the coronet of a viscountess: two footmen with flambeaux got behind the carriage, and the coachman was ordered to drive home; but when the carriage came into Pall-Mall, fresh orders were given to proceed towards Temple-Bar.

The fine lady engaged Page's attention to such a degree, that he paid no regard whither they went. At length the carriage stopped in an obscure street, at a house which looked like a shop, and the parties went up

stairs, but not before the lady had whispered one of the footmen (loud enough for Page to hear her) to acquaint her grace in the morning, that she did not return, lest she should disturb her, and therefore slept at Mrs. Price's.

As it was late, or rather early, before they came from the masquerade, and much time had been lost in the courtship, it was four o'clock in the afternoon before they arose, and even night before a coach was called for their departure; though the lady pretended, that her mother, the duchess, would be extremely uneasy on account of her absence.

With great difficulty Page prevailed on the lady to admit of his attendance on her part of the way home; during which he promised every thing that a lover could promise; and she answered him according to his wishes.

The coach stopping in Covent Garden, the lady went into a chair: and our hero offering to pay the chairman, he said that he was already paid; a circumstance that convinced Page of the disinterested disposition of this new acquaintance.

Repairing now to his lodgings, he reflected with pleasure on the happy prospects before him; but feeling for his pocket-book, he discovered that it was lost, and with it the greatest part of his treasure.

He now began to suspect, that the lady of fashion was an impostor: and when she failed to meet him on the following day, agreeable to an appointment that she had made, he saw that he had been robbed of five hundred pounds, without a probability of recovering it; for the lady had been masked all the time she was in his company.

He now advertised a reward to the hackney-coachman who took them up, and made several other endeavours to find her out; but they all proved equally fruitless.

Thus stripped of his ill-acquired property, he came to a resolution to make the women pay for what a woman had stolen; and taking the road to Bath, he robbed every

carriage in which was a woman. If men were in the coach, he said he had no demands on them, but had a draft for £. 500 on the ladies.

Finding that the women were possessed of little cash, he began to make his demands on the gentlemen, of whom he soon collected about £. 150, which he carried to the masquerade, and soon lost it all at the gaming-table; and was no sooner stripped of his money, than he determined to engage in an intrigue.

Leaving the gaming-room, he danced with a lady, and then attended her to supper, during which he said some tender things, which he presumed might tend to promote an immediate assignation; but he soon found that the lady had no other view than that of marriage, which was far from being disagreeable to him as he was then situated.

An appointment being agreed on for the following day, he waited on the lady at her house, and found that she was a widow of considerable fortune, and well descended. As he had the art of procuring himself to be well spoken of to her, she entertained no doubt of his honour. He escorted her to public places; and the expence of these attendances was defrayed by his usual resource, the highway.

After one of his expeditions on the road, he was followed to the inn where he put up his horse, and being taken into custody, was tried at Maidstone, but acquitted, because the party could not swear to his identity. This circumstance, however, put an end to his acquaintance with the lady abovementioned.

The road and the gaming-table became now his only places of resort; and what he got by pillage he generally lost by play. He frequented Bath, Tunbridge, Scarborough, and Newmarket; and when it was demanded if he was a man of fortune, the answer generally was, "He plays deep;" and no farther questions were thought necessary.

Page now connected himself with an old school-fellow, named Darwell, in conjunction with whom, in the space of three years, he committed more than three hundred robberies. The money obtained by these depredations was immediately divided: and if any dispute arose concerning a watch, or other article, they tossed up which should have it; or if they appraised it, Page paid Darwell the half of the presumed value. In the mean time, Page sold the watches to a Jew, who took them to Holland, and no farther inquiries were made after them.

Page was now seized with a violent illness, which proved very expensive, and the more so as he had a woman to maintain, who had no idea of retrenching her expences to suit their circumstances. It is true that Darwell gave him considerable assistance; but, notwithstanding this, he was so reduced, that, on his recovery, he was obliged to secrete himself to prevent his being arrested: and for this reason Darwell used to hire horses for them both; and Page meeting him out of London, they committed several robberies in company.

On Blackheath, Page robbed Captain Farrington, of Chislehurst in Kent: which robbery was afterwards positively sworn against a Mr. Douglas, by Captain Farrington's postillion; who likewise deposed, that a pistol was fired at him: but after Page was under sentence of death, he solemnly averred, that no pistol was fired; and likewise declared, with equal solemnity, that if Mr. Douglas had been convicted, he had formed a resolution of surrendering, and exculpating that gentleman.

In the mean time Mr. Douglas was brought to trial, and honourably acquitted, on his bringing the fullest proof that he was at a distant part at the time that the affair happened.

Soon after the commission of this robbery, Page heard that a distant relation in Scotland, who had promised to leave him his fortune, was near death: on which he took shipping for that country; but the vessel being cast away, he lost all his effects but the clothes on his back; and

when he arrived in Scotland, his relation was dead, without having made any provision for him: on which he returned to London.

Darwell and he now renewed their depredations on the highway, and in the course of six weeks, committed between twenty and thirty robberies on the roads adjacent to London; and the booties obtained in some of them being considerable, Page furnished himself with the gayest apparel, and laid by a sum of money for future contingencies.

At length, after a long course of iniquity, Justice Fielding received information, that Darwell was on the Tunbridge road: on which he sent out some people, who apprehended him near Sevenoaks, and bringing him before the magistrate above mentioned, he begged to be admitted an evidence for the crown; and this request being complied with, he gave an ample account of the robberies committed by himself and Page, particularly mentioning the inns on the road which the latter frequented, and the place where he usually hired his horses.

The consequence was, that Page was apprehended at the Golden-Lion near Hyde-Park, when three loaded pistols were found on him, with powder, balls, a wig to disguise himself, and the correct map of the roads round London, which we have already mentioned.

Page was sent to Newgate, and an advertisement inserted in the papers, requesting such persons as had been robbed to attend his re-examination;* but he denied all that was alledged against him, and as he was disguised when he committed any robbery, no person could identify his person.

Page being remanded to Newgate, remained there from July till February, when he was tried on suspicion of rob-

* This is a plan which, we believe, was first adopted by Sir John Fielding, and is still continued at his office, frequently with the greatest success in the detection of offenders.

bing Mr. Webb, in Belfond-lane; but acquitted for want of evidence. In the interim, he lived handsomely, and supported a girl on what he had saved by his former wicked practices.—After this he was tried at Hertford, but again acquitted for want of evidence.

From Hertford he was removed to Maidstone gaol, and being tried at Rochester, for robbing Captain Farrington, (as above mentioned) was capitally convicted, and received sentence of death.—After conviction, he acknowledged his guilt, yet exerted himself in the most strenuous manner to procure a pardon. He wrote to a nobleman, in this view; and likewise sent a letter to a gentleman with whom he had lived as a servant, begging his interest that he might be sent to America as a foot soldier: but his endeavours proved fruitless, and he was ordered for execution.

This extraordinary malefactor suffered at Maidstone, on the 6th of April, 1758.

RICHARD PARKER,

MUTINEER.

THIS offender was descended from a respectable family in Exeter. He obtained a good education, was bred in the navy, and about the conclusion of the American war, was an acting lieutenant in one of his majesty's ships. He soon came into the possession of a considerable sum of money, and shortly after he arrived in this country, married a farmer's daughter in Aberdeenshire, with whom he received a decent patrimony.

At this time, being without employment, he devoted himself to every species of dissipation, which soon finished his fortune, and involved him in debt, on account of which he was cast into the gaol of Edinburgh, where he was at the time the counties were raising seamen for the navy.

He then entered as one of the volunteers for Perthshire, received the bounty, and was released from prison, upon paying the incarcerating creditor a part of his bounty. He was put on board the Tender then in Leith Roads, commanded by captain Watson, who carried him, with many others, to the Nore. On the passage, captain Watson distinguished Parker both by his activity and polite address.

In 1797, he rendered himself conspicuous among the mutineers of the fleet. He was now known by the appellation of Admiral Parker. When captain Watson, of the Leith Tender, before he sailed from the Nore, being ordered by the crew of the Sandwich to come on board, was then introduced to, and interrogated by, Parker, whom he knew on first sight. Parker also recollected him, and from this circumstance he experienced great favour. Par-

ker ordered every man on board to treat captain Watson well; saying, he was a seaman's friend, and had treated him well, and that if any man used him otherwise, he should instantly be——Here he pointed to the yard-arm. Captain Watson took an opportunity of hinting to Parker the impropriety of his conduct, and the consequences that might follow: it seemed to throw a momentary damp on his spirits; but he expressed a wish to wave the subject, and captain Watson left him, having obtained permission to proceed on his voyage.

The mutiny having been happily suppressed, and a considerable reward offered for the apprehension of Parker, the accounted ringleader, on the arrival of lieutenant Motte, with the proclamations, &c. the crews of all the ships readily submitted. Parker himself could not oppose this spirit.

In consequence of this, the Sandwich came under the guns of Sheerness, and admiral Buckner's boat commanded by the cockswain, and containing a picquet guard of the West York militia, went on board to bring Parker on shore. Several of the officers of the Sandwich were on deck, and but very few of the men appeared.

As soon as Parker heard a boat was come for him, he surrendered himself to four of the ship's crew, to protect him against the outrages of the other seamen, whose vengeance he feared. Admiral Buckner's cockswain told the officers on deck his business, and claimed their assistance. The lieutenant drew his sword, and the party, consisting of eight or ten, went down below, where Parker was surrendered into their hands. They tied his hands together behind, and the officers conducted him into the boat, which had eight or ten rowers, and a party of the West York militia seated in the head, with their faces towards the stern, and their musquets held upright in their hands ready charged.

Parker was seated in the stern part, with his face towards the head; behind him was the cockswain, and before him, the lieutenant of the Sandwich, holding a drawn

sword over him. Parker, on landing, was much hissed; on which he said aloud, "Do not hoot me; it is not my fault: I will clear myself." He was sent to Maidstone gaol from Sheerness, under a strong guard; besides which, a rope tied his arms together behind his back.

After a long trial, which commenced soon after his apprehension, he was found Guilty. His defence he read from a paper, but with much rapidity and little feeling. After a solemn pause of near ten minutes, the lord advocate rose, and with his head uncovered, pronounced the following sentence. "The court adjudges Richard Parker to suffer Death, and to be hanged by the neck on board any one of his majesty's ships, and at such time as the lords of the admiralty may think proper to appoint." The prisoner listened to the sentence without emotion, and addressed the court as follows.

"I have heard your sentence; I shall submit to it without a struggle. I feel thus, because I am sensible of the rectitude of my intentions. Whatever offences may have been committed, I hope *my* life will be the only sacrifice: I trust it will be thought a sufficient atonement. Pardon, I beseech you, the other men; I know they will return with alacrity to their duty."

The president then briefly addressed himself to the prisoner. He said, that notwithstanding the enormity of the crimes of which he had been found guilty on the fullest and clearest evidence, yet the court, in order to afford him the necessary time to expiate his offences, and to make his peace with God, would not then name any day for his execution, but leave that point to the determination of the lords of the admiralty. The prisoner then withdrew, and was soon after put in irons.

The time of Parker's execution was fixed for Friday, June 30th. At eight o'clock in the morning a gun was fired from on board his majesty's ship L'Espion, lying off Sheerness garrison. Vice admiral Lutwidge's flag ship,

and the yellow flag, the signal of capital punishment, was hoisted, which was immediately repeated by the Sandwich, hoisting the same colour on her foretop.

The prisoner was awaked, a little after six o'clock, from a sound sleep, by the Provost Marshal, who, with a file of marines, composed his guard. He arose with cheerfulness, and requested permission for a barber to attend him, which was granted. He soon dressed himself in a neat suit of mourning, waistcoat excepted, wearing his half-boots over a pair of black silk stockings: he then took his breakfast, talked of a will he had written, in which he had bequeathed to his wife a little estate he said he was heir to; and after that, lamented the misfortune that had been brought on the country by the mutiny, but solemnly denied having the least connexion or correspondence with any disaffected persons a-shore; and declared, that it was chiefly owing to him, that the ships had not been carried into the enemy's ports.

At half past eight, he was told the chaplain of the ship was ready to attend him to prayers upon the quarter-deck, which he immediately attended uncovered. At his first entrance on the deck, he looked a little paler than common, but soon recovered his usual complexion. He bowed to the officers, and a chair being allowed him, he sat down a few moments; he then arose, and told the clergyman he wished to attend him: the chaplain informed him he had selected two psalms appropriate to his situation; to which the prisoner assenting, said, "and with your permission, sir, I will add a third," and named the 51st. He then recited each alternate verse in a manner peculiarly impressive.

At nine o'clock, the preparative gun was fired from L'Espion, which he heard without the smallest emotion. Prayers being soon after closed, he rose, and asked Captain Moss "if he might be indulged with a glass of white wine?" which being granted, he took it, and lifting up his eyes, exclaimed, "I drink first to the salvation of my soul! and next, to the forgiveness of all my enemies!"

Addressing himself to captain Moss, he said, "he hoped he would shake hands with him;" which the captain did: he then desired "that he might be remembered to his companions on board the Neptune; with his last breath sent an entreaty to them, to prepare for their destiny, and refrain from unbecoming *levity* !"

His arms being now bound, the procession moved from the quarter deck to the forecastle, passing through a double file of marines, on the starboard side, to a platform erected on the cat-head, with an elevated projection. Arriving there, he knelt with the chaplain, and joined in some devout ejaculations; to all of which he repeated loudly—"Amen." Rising again, the admiral's warrant of execution, addressed to captain Moss, was now read by the clerk, in which the sentence of the court martial, order of the board of admiralty, and his majesty's approbation of the whole proceedings, were fully recited, which the prisoner heard with great attention, and bowed his head, as if in assent, at the close of it.

He now asked the captain "whether he might be allowed to speak?" and immediately apprehending his intention might be misconceived, he added—"I am not going, sir, to address the ship's company!—I wish only to declare, that I acknowledge the justice of the sentence under which I suffer; and I hope my death may be deemed a sufficient atonement, and save the lives of others!"—He then desired "a minute to recollect himself," and knelt down alone, about that space of time; then rising up, said; "I am ready;"—and holding his head up, said to the boatswain's mate, "take off my handkerchief;" (of black silk) which being done, the Provost Marshal placed the halter over his head, (which had been prepared with grease,) but doing it aukwardly, the prisoner said rather pettishly to the boatswain's mate, "Do you do it, for he seems to know nothing about it!" The halter was then spliced to the reeve rope; all this being adjusted, the marshal attempted to put a cap on, which he refused:

but on being told it was indispensible, he submitted, requesting it might not be pulled over his eyes till he desired it.

He then turned round for the first time, and gave a steady look at his shipmates on the forecastle, and, with an affectionate kind of smile, nodded his head, and said, "Good bye to you!"—He now said, "Captain Moss, is the gun primed?" "It is." "Is the match alight?—"All is ready." On this he advanced a little, and said, "Will any gentleman be so good as lend me a white handkerchief for the signal?"

After some little pause, a gentleman stepped forward and gave him one, to whom, bowing, he returned thanks:—he now ascended the plattorm; repeated the same questions about the gun; then the cap being draw over his face, walking by firm degrees up to the extremity of the scaffold, he dropped the handkerchief, put his hands in his coat pockets with great rapidity, and at the moment as he was springing off, the fatal bow gun fired, and the reeve rope catching him, run him up, though not with great velocity, to the yard-arm. When suspended about midway, his body appeared extremely convulsed for a few seconds, immediately after which no appearance of life remained.

It being tide of ebb, the starboard yard-arm pointed to the Isle of Grain, where scaffolding was erected for the spectators on shore:—a considerable number of yatches, cutters, and other craft, surrounded the Sandwich:—the last time the prisoner knelt with the Chaplain at the cat-head, though he made his responses regularly, his attention was particularly directed the whole time to the armed boats of the fleet, which were plying round on duty!

The whole conduct of this awful ceremony was extremely decorous and impressive: it was evident from the countenance of the crew of the Sandwich, that the general feeling for the fate of their mutinous conductor was such as might be wished; not a word, and scarce a whisper was heard among them.

The behaviour of this unhappy man throughout the whole of his trial, was firm and manly; while he was before the Court, decent and respectful; and from the time he received his sentence, till his execution, resigned and penitent.—The uncommon fortitude he displayed during his trial, did not forsake him even in the last moments of his wretched existence.

The day before his execution, Mrs Parker presented a petition to the Earl of Morton, to be delivered to the Queen, in favour of her unfortunate husband. Her deportment was becoming her unhappy situation. After delivering her petition in favour of her husband, she waited at St. James's till five o'clock in the afternoon, on Thursday the 29th of June; when losing all hopes of a favourable answer, she proceeded into the city, and got into a coach setting off for Rochester, where she arrived about eleven o'clock that evening.

She immediately agreed with a boatman, who was going to Sheerness with garden-stuff, to take her on board at four the next morning, which was that fixed for her husband's execution. She embarked accordingly, as soon as the tide would serve, and got down along-side the Sandwich about seven.—The sentinels ordered the boat off; she desired permission to speak to Richard Parker—the answer was, that if the boat did not put off, they must fire into it. In spite of her remonstrances, the boatman now proceeded to Sheerness, assuring her, that as the yellow flag was not up, no execution would take place that day. She instantly procured another boat from the garrison dock-stairs, and as she was rowing up to Blackstakes, she observed the fatal flag hoisted on board the Sandwich; her application was renewed with tenfold entreaties to get on board, but to no effect: and again she was taken back to Sheerness, the warterman having stipulated only to put her on board the Sandwich, and being obliged to go back for persons he was engaged to carry.

She hired a third vessel with no greater success; for just as she approached the ship, she saw the fatal proces-

sion of her husband from the quarter-deck to the forecastle, when shrieking out, "Oh my dear husband!" she fainted away. On recovering she saw him mount the platform on the cat-head, and the clergyman in his robes go from him, and from that moment she "saw nothing but the sea, which appeared covered with blood!" Thus senseless, she was rowed a third time on shore.

She embarked in a fourth boat, and saw him from a distance at the yard-arm, just before he was lowered down; by the time she reached the ship, the body had been received into a shell, and carried away for interment:—she had now access to the ship's side, and learnt that it had been conveyed away in a boat, to be buried at Sheerness; she immediately went back to the garrison, and after much difficulty, got access to Vice-Admiral Lutwidge, and in bitterness of grief, solicited permission to remove the corpse, which she had previously learnt was deposited in the new burying-ground. The admiral asked her for what purpose she wished it? she answered, "to have him interred like a gentleman, as he had been bred."

The Admiral not acceeding to her wish, she departed, and endeavoured by every means to find out who kept the key of the place of interment, which is enclosed by a new stockade fence, nearly ten feet high. Not being able to procure it, she went about ten o'clock that same evening, and seeing three women near the ground, she imparted to them who she was, with her design of recovering the body of her husband, and requested their assistance, to which they readily assented. She directly ascended the gateway, and helped the women, till all got over; when with their hands alone they removed the earth that covered the coffin, which was laid but a little way in the ground; having raised it, they contrived to get it over the gate, and then sat upon the coffin, to conceal it from the sentinels of the Barrier Gate, hard by, till four o'clock in the morning the drawbridge being now wound up, a fish cart came out of the garrison, on its way to Rochester, when she prevailed upon the driver to convey the body to that place for a guinea, which he undertook.

Arriving at Rochester, she agreed with the driver of a caravan, to take it to town for six guineas more, and deliver it at the Hoop and Horse-shoe, Queen-street, Little Tower-Hill, where, it seems, she had hired a room for that purpose, and brought the key in her pocket.

As soon as the corpse had arrived on Saturday evening, and it was known whose body was deposited there, the people began at first to assemble through curiosity; but afterwards some, from other motives, introduced themselves to this unfortunate woman, on the pretence of charitable sympathy, requesting they might be permitted to see her husband interred in a manner suitable to his condition.

The concourse of visitants increased on Sunday, and on Monday, to a number which called upon the magistrates for their interference. Mrs. Parker was desired to attend the Police office, in Lambert-street, where she was interrogated respecting her intentions in removing the body of her husband from Sheerness? her answer was, "to take him down, either to his own family at Exeter, or to her's in Scotland, and bury him like a Christian!"—She was then asked whether it was true, as it had then been reported, that she had suffered him to be shown for money? she burst into a flood of tears, and replied, "Do I appear like a monster so unnatural?". It proved afterwards, that there was not the smallest foundation for so injurious a report.

The magistrates, on finding that some of the disaffected societies were inclined to make the funeral a spectacle for the purpose of tumult, ordered the corpse on Monday, to the Workhouse in Nightingale-lane, and interment to be made of it in Aldgate church-yard the next morning, at eleven o'clock; hearing, however, that a large body of people were assembled in the Minories all that evening, and that a more tumultuous assembly might be expected the next day at the funeral, they prudently directed the body to be removed at one o'clock the morning before, to the burying-vault of Whitechapel church.

In the afternoon, Mrs. Parker, at her particular request, was permitted to attend, and to behold it, for the last time, by the coffin-lid being taken off; afterwards the funeral service was performed by the Rev. Mr. Wright, the Rector, when the whole of this extraordinary transaction terminated to the perfect satisfaction of the unfortunate, and pitiable relict, as the following attestation on her part, fully certified:

(COPY.)

LONDON, JULY 4th, 1797.

"I, Ann Parker, wife of the late Richard Parker, deceased, do hereby certify, that, at my particular request, I have this day seen the body of my late husband, in the Burying Vault, of St. Mary, Whitechapel, by permission of the Rector, and Church Warden of the said parish; that the burial service was duly performed over him, and that I am perfectly satisfied with the mode of interment, and the indulgence that I have received from the Minister, and Officers of the said parish.

(Signed) ANN PARKER."

WILLIAM JOHNSON AND JANE HOUSDEN,

MURDERERS.

Executed opposite the Sessions-house, in the Old-Bailey, September 19th, 1712

WE insert this narrative on account of its singularity, as it may not happen that another case of the kind shall ever occur.

William Johnson was a native of Northamptonshire, where he served his time to a butcher, and removing to London opened a shop in Newport-Market; but business not succeeding to his expectation, he took a house in Long-Acre, and commenced corn-chandler; but in this business he was likewise unsuccessful, on which he sold his stock in trade, and took a public house near Christ-Church in Surry.

In the business of a victualler, he was as unsuccessful as in his former professions; on which he sailed to Gibraltar, where he was appointed a mate to one of the surgeons of the garrison: so that he appears to have possessed a genius turned to a variety of employment.

Having saved some money at Gibraltar, he came back to his native country, where he soon spent it, and then had recourse to the highway for a supply. Being apprehended in consequence of one of his robberies, he was convicted, but received a pardon, not long before the perpetration of the murder which cost him his life.

Johnson had been formerly acquainted with one Jane Housden, who had been tried and convicted of coining, but obtained a pardon. It was not long after this pardon

(which was procured by great influence,) before Housden was again in custody for a similar offence. On the day that she was to be tried, and just as she was brought down to the bar of the Old-Bailey, Johnson called to see her; but Mr. Spurling, the head turnkey, telling him that he could not see her till her trial was ended, he instantly drew a pistol, and shot Spurling dead on the spot, in the presence of the court, and all the persons attending to hear the trials; Mrs. Housden, at the same time encouraging him in the perpetration of this horrid murder.

The event had no sooner happened, than the judges, thinking it unnecessary to proceed on the trial of the woman for coining, ordered both the parties to be tried for the murder; and there being such a number of witnesses to the deed, they were almost immediately convicted, and received sentence of death.

From this time so that of their execution, and even at the place of their death, they behaved as if they were wholly insensible of the enormity of the crime which they had committed; nay, though there were so many witnesses to the fact, they had the confidence to deny it to the last moment of their lives; nor did they show any signs of compunction for their former sins.

On the 19th of September, 1712, they were executed opposite the Sessions-house in the Old Bailey, after which Johnson was hanged in chains near Holloway, between Islington and Highgate.

WILLIAM BAKER,

FORGER.

Executed at TYBURN, Dec. 31st, 1750.

THIS malefactor was born in Cannon, where his father kept a baker's shop, and received his education at Merchant Taylor's School. At a proper age he was apprenticed to a grocer in a considerable way, and behaved with so much deligence and fidelity, that soon after the time of his apprenticeship had expired, his master admitted him an equal partner in trade. Having carried on the grocery for about seven years, he declined that business, and connected himself in partnership with Mr Carter, a sugar-baker; and by this new undertaking flattered himself in the expectation of speedily acquiring a fortune.

About the period of his commencing sugar-baker he married one of his cousins, who was the daughter of a clergyman in Northamptonshire; and with her received a handsome fortune. For several years he fulfilled all his engagements with the greatest punctuality, and was supposed to be worth considerable property. He attended the sales of the East India company's goods, frequently purchased very large quantities of teas, and had extensive dealings in other articles. He often sustained considerable loss by the sale of his goods: and his circumstances, at length, became so embarrassed, that he was under apprehension that a commission of bankruptcy would issue against him.

He flattered himself, however, that, if he could support his credit for a short time, matters would take a more favourable turn, and his circumstances be retrieved. His anxiety to avoid a bankruptcy, induced him to forge an East India warrant for goods to the amount of nine hundred and twenty-two pounds. But it must be remarked, that the forgery was not committed with any intention to defraud, but merely to raise a supply for present exigencies. He was in expectation of speedy remittances, on the receipt of which he intended to take up the counterfeit warrant. Having passed it into the hands of Mr. Holland, who sent it to the India-house, where the forgery was detected, he was in consequence apprehended.

Being put on his trial at the Old-Bailey, several gentlemen of reputation appeared in his behalf, and spoke to his character in the most favourable terms: but both the forgery and the uttering the counterfeit warrant having been proved against him by indisputable testimony, and strongly corroborating circumstances, he of course was condemned to suffer death. His behaviour, while under sentence of death, was perfectly consistent with his unfortunate situation.

Being conveyed to Tyburn in a mourning coach, he appeared to be in a composed state of mind, and entirely resigned to his fate.

He suffered December 31, 1750.

RICHARD FERGUSON, alias GALLOPING DICK,

HIGHWAYMAN.

Executed at AYLESBURY, in 1800.

THIS offender was the son of a gentleman's servant, and a native of Hertfordshire. He was sent to school at a very early age, but to little purpose, and was afterwards employed as a stable boy where his father was hired. At the age of 16 he came to London with the family.—During their stay in town, the postillion was taken ill, and Dick was appointed to supply his place till he recovered, which was not very long. Now stripped of his fine livery, and sent to occupy his station as a stable boy, his haughty spirit could not brook the degradation. Fond of dress, and being thought a man of consequence, he resolved to look out for another place.

Accordingly he told his father of his resolution, and asked his advice. His father knowing he was well qualified, in respect to the management of horses, told him he would look out one for him. A circumstance happened, that very afternoon, highly gratifying to his pride. A lady who frequently visited the family, being in want of a postillion, asked Dick's master what was become of his late postillion. Being informed he was in his place, and was very fit for her employ, he was sent for and hired.

Dick was now completely his own master, and for some time behaved to the satisfaction of his mistress. He was a great favourite in the family, particularly among the female part; but his mistress discovering him in an impro-

per situation with one of her female servants, he was immediately discharged: nor could any intercession prevail upon her to reinstate him.

Soon afterwards he got another place, in which he did not long remain. He had at this time got connected with some other servants of a loose character, and their manner of drinking, gaming, and idleness, suiting his disposition, he soon became one of them. After losing several good places, by negligence, he applied to a livery stable in Piccadilly, and obtained employment. His father having now died, left him the sum of 57l. which he had saved during the time he lived in the family. With this he commenced gentleman. He left his place, bought mourning, frequented the theatres, &c. One evening, at Drury-lane, he got seated by a female, who particularly engaged his attention; he took her to be a modest lady, and was very much chagrined at finding her readily granting his request to conduct her home. He resolved to leave her, but found his resolution fail him, and at the end of the play he attended her to her residence in St. George's fields, and staid with her the whole night.

Next morning, after making her a handsome present, he took his leave, with a promise of soon repeating his visit. He went home—but this artful courtezan had so completely enamoured him, that he could not rest many hours without paying her another visit; and only for the accidental visit of some companions, he would have returned immediately. With them he reluctantly spent the day, and in the evening flew again on the impatient wings of desire to his dear Nancy. She, suspecting him to be a person of considerable property, from the specimen she had of his generosity, received him with every mark of endearment in her power.

At this time she was the first favourite of several noted highwaymen and housebreakers, who, in turn, had all their favoured hours. Unfortunately for himself, Ferguson became as complete a dupe as ever she had ensnared. What money he possessed, what he could obtain by bor-

rowing or otherwise, was all lavished on this female, and he was, after all, in danger of being discarded He was a total stranger to her connexions with the *gentlemen* of the road, though he knew she bestowed her favours on others.

Not able to bear the thoughts of entirely parting with his dear Nancy, he went to an inn in Piccadilly, offered himself as a postillion, and was accepted. Whenever he could obtain a little money, he flew with impatience to his fair dulcinea, and squandered it away in the same thoughtless manner. As he drove post-chaises on the different roads round the metropolis, he frequently saw his rivals on the road gaily mounted and dressed.

One day driving a gentleman on the north road, the chaise was stopped by the noted Abershaw and another, with crapes over their faces. Abershaw stood by the driver till the other went up to the chaise and robbed the gentleman. The wind being very high, blew the crape off his face, and gave Ferguson a full view of his person. They stared at each other, but before a word could pass, some company coming up, the two highwaymen galloped off.

Ferguson, who at this time was under the frowns of his mistress, for want of money, well knew and was known by Abershaw, whom he had often seen at Nancy's. Abershaw was very uneasy at the discovery, which he communicated to his companion. A consultation was immediately held, and it was resolved to wait at an inn on the road for the return of Ferguson, and bribe him, to prevent a discovery. They accordingly went to the inn, and when Ferguson came back, and stopped to water his horses, the waiter was ordered to send him in. After some conversation, Dick accepted of the present offered him, and agreed to meet them that night, to partake of a good supper.

With this fresh recruit of cash he flew to his Nancy; but she being otherwise engaged, and not expecting him so soon to possess sufficient for her notice (being now ac-

quainted with his situation) absolutely refused to admit him, and shut the door in his face. Mad with the reception he had experienced, he quitted the house, and resolved never to repeat his visit, which resolution he strictly adhered to.

He was now proceeding homewards, when he met the highwayman who accompanied Abershaw, and went with him to the place of rendezvous in the Borough, where he was received by those assembled with every mark of attention.—They supped sumptuously, drank wine, and spent the time in noisy mirth This exactly suited Ferguson; he joined in their mirth, and when sufficiently elevated, very eagerly closed with a proposition to be one of their number. He was, according to their forms, immediately initiated.

When the plan of their next depredation on the public was settled, Ferguson was not immediately called into action, it was suggested by one of the members that he could be better employed in giving information at their rendezvous of the departure of gentlemen from the inn where he lived, &c. whereby those who were most likely to afford a proper booty might be way-laid and robbed.—This diabolical plan he followed too successfully for some time: taking care to learn from the drivers the time post chaises were ordered from other inns, &c. He shared very often considerable sums, which he quickly squandered away in gambling, drunkenness, and dissipation.

At length he lost his place, and consequently his knowledge respecting travellers becoming confined, he was obliged himself to go on the road. As a highwayman he was remarkably successful. Of a daring disposition, he defied danger—and, from his skill in horses, took care to provide himself with a good one, whereby he could effect his escape, when others ran every risk of being taken. Of this we shall mention one remarkable instance.

Two others and himself stopped two gentlemen on the Edgware road, and robbed them; soon after three other gentlemen coming up, they pursued, and Ferguson's two companions were taken, tried, and executed.

When his associates complimented him on his escape, he triumphantly asserted, that he would gallop a horse with any man in the kingdom, and that he was known among the 'gentlemen of the whip,' by the appellation of 'Galloping Dick.'—Through this circumstance he obtained that name among his companions, which afterwards became general. He now indulged himself in every excess. His amours were very numerous, particularly among those married women he could, by presents or otherwise, induce to listen to his desires. He prevailed upon the wives of two publicans in the Borough to elope with him, and carried on several private intrigues with others.

At one of the last places in which he lived, he was frequently employed to drive post-chaises between Hounslow and London, and notwithstanding he drove close by his old companion Abershaw, where he hung in irons, it had no effect in altering his morals.

To follow him through the various exploits in which he was afterwards engaged, would far exceed our limits. He was concerned in a very great number of robberies committed round the metropolis. At the time that he lived at different inns, as a post-chaise driver, he went on the road, and kept up a connexion with almost every infamous character of the day. He was concerned with Middleton, Harper, &c. in the robbery at Brixton Causeway, in 1799, and most of the other robberies committed on that road.

He was repeatedly in custody at Bow-street, tried at the Old-Bailey, but nothing could be properly brought home. At length, he was apprehended by some patroles belonging to Bow-street, thence conveyed to Aylesbury, Bucks, and there tried and convicted of a highway robbery in that county.

When he found himself left for execution, he seriously prepared for his approaching end, and when he came to the fatal tree, met his awful fate with a religious resignation.

He suffered at Aylesbury, in 1800.

MARIA THERESA PHIPOE, alias MARY BENSON,

MURDERER.

Executed December 11th, 1800.

THE above malefactor was a woman of masculine behaviour, who, on May 23d, 1795, was found guilty of taking from John Courtois a promissory note, value 2000l. for which she was imprisoned twelve months. She was afterwards indicted for the wilful murder of Mary Cox, on the 25th of October, 1797, in Gordon-street, St. George's in the East.

It appeared in evidence, that the deceased was acquainted with the prisoner, and that she had called at her lodgings that morning. Soon after, the mistress of the house heard a scuffle and groaning; she called two neighbours, and going to the prisoner's door, which was locked, asked what was the matter? she replied, the woman was only in a fit, and that she was getting better. She opened the door a little, when the witnesses saw she was bloody; two persons went for a doctor, and a third pushing open the door, saw the deceased bleeding upon the ground—she ran down stairs, crying murder, and, to her great terror, was followed by the wounded woman, who laid hold of her; Mrs Benson came down after the deceased had got into the kitchen, where she was when the surgeon and beadles came—she was unable to speak, but yet made herself understood by one of the beadles, that she had been thus wounded by a woman up stairs He went up to the prisoner, who was sitting on the bed, and said to her, "For God Almighty's sake, what have you

Mrs PHIPOE.

Page 213.

done to the woman below? she answered, "I don't know; I believe the devil and passion bewitched me." There was part of a finger and a case knife lying upon the table; he said, "Is this the knife you did the woman's business with?" she answered, "Yes" "Is this your finger?" "Yes." "Did the woman below cut it off?" "Yes;" but this the deceased denied, upon his afterwards questioning her with it.

The surgeon described the deceased to have received five wounds upon the throat and neck, besides several wounds in several parts of the body, and agreed with the surgeon who afterward attended her in the Hospital, that those wounds were undoubtedly the cause of her death.

The day after, the deceased made a declaration before a Magistrate, wherein she stated, that she had purchased of the prisoner a gold watch and other articles, for which she paid eleven pounds, and then asked for a china coffee-cup, which stood upon the chimney-piece, into the bargain; the prisoner bid her take one; but, in doing so, she stabbed her in the neck, and afterwards had her under her hands more than an hour, she calling murder all the time, till at last she got her upon the bed, when she said she would kill her outright, that she might not tell her own story.

The prisoner, in her defence said, that the deceased wanted to purchase only part of the things which she wanted to dispose of, and, upon her refusing to divide them, she became angry, and said that she only wanted the money to go to London, to be Courtois's mistress again: The prisoner replied, that was a lie, for she never had been Courtois's mistress: the deceased retorted, that it had been proved so at the Old Bailey. She said, that was a d——d lie; and from this they both proceeded to very abusive language, and much violence. There were two knives lying on the table; the deceased took one, and making a violent thrust at the prisoner, cut off one of her fingers.

In the heat of her passion, full of pain and streaming with blood, she stabbed her; but solemnly declared she had no recollection of what passed afterwards, until she found herself in her own room, covered with blood. This, she said, was the truth; the deceased, if alive, must confess she had been most in fault, and that which affected her the most was, that she had done her any injury." The landlady where the deceased lived, and another person, to whom she was well known, proved that she had a great respect for the prisoner, and had often heard her declare that she believed the prisoner had the same for her. Mr. Baron Perryn, who tried the prisoner, then addressed the jury as follows:—

" Gentlemen,

" This charge against the prisoner at the bar, Maria Theresa Phipoe, otherwise Mary Benson, for the wilful murder of Mary Cox, by stabbing her in different parts of the body, and giving her several mortal wounds, of which she died; you have heard the evidence on both sides, both on the part of the prosecution, and also on the part of the prisoner, at considerable length; and all that will be necessary for me in the discharge of my duty, will be to recapitulate that evidence, and if I mistake in any point, I request the counsel on both sides will correct me. (Here the learned judge summoned up the evidence on on both sides, and then added,) Gentlemen, this is the evidence: it is a very suspicious circumstance against the prisoner, that she should send out her landlady at that particular time to buy brandy and bread, and when she returned, to prevent her bringing it up stairs, saying, it would not be wanted for some time; that is a presumption she was occupied about something that interested her at that time; with respect to the understanding of the prisoner, the witnesses have all sworn, who speak to that point, that she was in her proper senses: you have heard the defence which she has made; now, to be sure, if she

had given the same account to the beadle, which she has done in court to-day, it would have operated very much in her favour: if this latter account was true, what could be the meaning of concealing the knife in her bosom, and giving it up with so much reluctance. It is stated by the deceased and by several witnesses, that she had locked the door, and for some time denied admission to the neighbours. If she had been attacked, as she alledged, and was subject to passion, why did she obstruct the means of preventing her passion from producing any mischief. Her threatening to kill the deceased outright that she might not be able to tell her own story, was a very unfavourable circumstance to her. There does not appear to be any colour for her barbarous treatment of the deceased, who had always regarded her with affection; and all the evidence which the prisoner has produced in her behalf, does not appear to me to diminish the enormity of the charge against her. But it is for you to pronounce, in the case, as it appears to your judgments and consciences. if, from all the circumstances, you are of opinion that she has intentionally and maliciously committed the crime charged against her, you must find her guilty; but if it appears to you that the deceased was the aggressor, and drew her fate upon herself, you will of course pronounce a verdict of acquittal."

The jury retired for twenty minutes, and returned with a verdict—guilty. Proclamation being made in the usual form, Mr. Baron Perryn immediately proceeded to pass sentence, that she should be executed on the Monday following, and her body afterwards dissected and anatomized, according to the statute.

When the judge came to this part of the sentence, the prisoner said, "you may speak out, I am not afraid:" and when he had finished with the usual word, "the Lord have mercy on thy soul;" she said, "I do not place very great dependence on your mercy."

The prisoner appeared, both before and after the examination of the witnesses, much concerned about her pro-

perty, and said that she had not received back all the money that lay about the room when the officers entered it; and on the two notes being produced in court she said they were not her's, for the property that she required was all in gold.

She suffered December 11th, 1797. However improper her conduct was before, she then behaved with due decorum, being attended by a Roman catholic priest. She left a guinea for the most deserving debtor in the gaol, and gave the same sum to the executioner. After hanging an hour in the view of a great number of spectators, one-third of whom were females, the body was cut down, and delivered to the surgeons for dissection.

In her last moments, she confessed the justness of her sentence, but denied her having cut off her own finger, saying it was done in the scuffle with the woman she murdered.

She also denied to the last having poisoned a young woman some years since, who had left her a legacy of 1000l. She owned to have been guilty of many enormities, and attributed her frequent gusts of passion to the use of laudanum.

Her body was publickly, and indeed *most shamefully*, exhibited in a place built for the purpose, in the Old-Bailey.

WILLIAM BURRIDGE,

HORSE-STEALER.

Executed at TYBURN, March 22d, 1722.

THE subject of this narrative was a native of Northamptonshire, and served his time with a carpenter; but being of a wild disposition, his friends determined on sending him to sea: accordingly they got him rated as a midshipman, and he sailed to the coast of Spain; but soon quitting the naval service, he returned to England, and commencing highwayman, committed many robberies on the road to Hampstead, on Finchley-Common, and in the neighbourhood of Hammersmith.

When he first began the practice of robbing, he formed a resolution to retire when he had acquired as much money as would support him: but this time never arrived; for finding his success by no means proportioned to his expectations, he became one of the gang under Jonathan Wild, of infamous memory; and was for a considerable time screened from justice by that celebrated master of thieves.

Burridge being confined in New-prison, for a capital offence, broke out of that gaol; and he was repeatedly an evidence at the Old Bailey, by which means his associates suffered the rigour of the law. At length, having offended Wild, the latter marked him down as one doomed to suffer at the next execution after the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey; which was a common practice with Wild, when he grew tired of his dependants, or thought they could be no longer serviceable to him.

Alarmed by this circumstance, Burridge fled into Lincolnshire, where he stole a horse, and brought it to London, intending to sell it at Smithfield for present support: but the gentleman who had lost the horse, having sent a full description of it to London, Burridge was seen riding on it through the street, and watched to a livery stable.

Some persons going to take him, he produced a brace of pistols, threatening destruction to any one who came near him; by which he got off, but being immediately pursued, he was apprehended in May-fair, and lodged in Newgate. On his trial, a man and a woman swore, that they saw him purchase the horse; but as there was a material difference in their stories, the court was of opinion, that they had been hired to swear, and the judge gave directions for their being taken into custody for the perjury.

The jury did not hesitate to find Burridge guilty: and after sentence was passed, his behaviour was extremely devout, and he encouraged the devotion of others in like unhappy circumstances.

He suffered at Tyburn, on the 22d of March, 1722, in the 34th year of his age; having first warned the spectators to be obedient to their parents and masters, and to beware of the crime of debauching young women, which had first led him from the path of duty, and finally terminated in his ruin.

ELIZABETH MASON,

MURDERER.

Executed at Tyburn, June 18th, 1712.

THIS woman was born at Melton-Mowbray in Leicestershire, and while very young, was conveyed by her friends to Sutton, near Peterborough, in Northamptonshire; from whence, at the age of seven years, she was brought to London by Mrs. Scoles, who told her she was her godmother; and with this lady and her sister, Mrs. Cholwell, she lived, and was employed in household work; but having conceived an idea that she should possess the fortune of her mistresses, on their death, she came to the horrid resolution of removing them by poison.

On Thursday in Easter week, 1712, being sent on an errand, she went to a druggist's shop, where she bought a quantity of yellow arsenic, on the pretence that it was to kill rats.

On the following morning, she mixed this poison with some coffee, of which Mrs. Scoles drank, and soon afterwards finding herself extremely ill, said her end was approaching, and expired the next day in great agonies. Mrs. Cholwell receiving no injury from what little coffee she drank, the girl determined to renew her attempt to poison her; in consequence of which, she went again to the same shop about a fortnight afterwards, and bought a second quantity of arsenic, which she put into some water-gruel, prepared for Mrs. Cholwell's breakfast, on the following morning.

It happened, providentially, that the gruel was too hot, the lady put it aside sometime to cool, during which time, most of the arsenic sunk to the bottom. She then drank some of it, found herself very ill, and observing the sediment at the bottom of the bason, sent for her apothecary, who gave her a large quantity of oil to drink, by the help of which the poison was expelled.

Unfavourable suspicions now arising against Elizabeth Mason, she was taken into custody, and being carried before two justices of the peace, on the 30th of April, she confessed the whole of her guilt, in consequence of which she was committed to Newgate.

On the 6th of June, in the same year, she was indicted for the murder of Mrs. Scoles; and, pleading guilty to the indictment, received sentence of death; in consequence of which she suffered at Tyburn, on the 18th of June.

While she lay under sentence of death, the ordinary of Newgate asked her if she had any lover, or other person who had tempted her to the commission of the crime: to which she answered in the negative, but owned that she had frequently defrauded her mistresses of money, and then told lies to conceal the depredations of which she had been guilty.

At the time of her execution, she warned young people to beware of crimes similar to those which had brought her to that fatal end, and confessed the justice of the sentence which made her a public example.

ROBERT EMMETT,

TRAITOR.

THIS unfortunate man was of a most respectable Irish family, who, with his brother, had been concerned in wickedly endeavouring to subvert the government of Ireland, and had expended a large sum in providing arms for his associates. His brother had, during our last war with France, been in custody for the like offence, but in consequence of becoming an exile for life, government was pleased to forego severe measures.

These gentlemen had an excellent education, and were both renowned for eloquence. The elder, who was the banished brother, was in London, at the Temple, about twenty-five years ago, and distinguished himself at Coach-Maker's Hall, then a respectable debating society. He found, however, a rival in Maynard C. Walker, Esq. (now at the Irish bar) both here and in a debating society in Dublin; in consequence of which Mr. Emmett, by the advice of his friends, declined any further controversy.

These gentlemen would certainly have been great luminaries at the bar, had not that lurking fiend, disloyalty, eclipsed their fame, and instigated bright talents to perpetrate dark deeds. Robert Emmett was tried and convicted in Dublin, before Lord Norbury, and a respectable jury, Monday September 19, 1803. After the evidence, the provincial proclamation was read, to shew the object of the insurrection, and the resolution proscribing the yeomanry and other loyal subjects.

The prisoner desired that a part of it should also be read, by which it was decreed, that no man should suffer

death by court-martial, but for mutiny, until the pleasure of the provisional government should be known: it was read accordingly.

The proclamation addressed to the citizens of Dublin was also read. The prisoner's counsel accounted for the intimate knowlédge he had of the provisional proclamation, by saying that it had appeared in other publications. The following papers were then read:—No. I. (found in his lodgings by Major Sirr,) was nearly as follows:—" It may seem strange that a person avowing himself to be an enemy of the present government, and engaged in a conspiracy for its overthrow, should undertake to suggest an opinion on its conduct, or expect that advice from such a quarter should be received with attention.

The writer of this, however, does not mean to offer an opinion upon a point in which he feels difficulty—on which his candour might be doubted; his intention is to confine himself to points on which he feels with the merciful, and as an Irishman with the English part of the present government: he will communicate in the most precise terms the line of conduct which he may be hereafter compelled to adopt—and which, however painful, would be doubly so if he did not try to avoid it by the most explicit notification.

It is not the intention of the undersigned to do more than state what the government must acknowledge, that of the conspiracy it knows nothing; and instead of creating terror in its enemies and confidence in its friends, it will serve by the scantiness of its information to furnish new grounds of conviction to those who are too ready to accuse it for the want of that intelligence which no sagacity could enable it to obtain. If, then, it is unable by a display of discoveries to evince its strength and vigilance, it cannot hope to crush the conspiracy by the weight of its power. Is it only now that men have to learn that entering into a conspiracy exposes them to be hanged? . . . . . Can it hope to injure the body of the conspiracy, so impenetrably woven as the present, by mere-

ly cutting off a few of the threads? . . . . . No system can change the conduct which the U. I. will adopt for effecting the emancipation of their country."

No. II. found on the prisoner's person.—"I wish particularly to know how matters stand, if you are not afraid. What hopes there are from abroad, and what they mean to do; and whether, if they pay us a visit, we shall not be worse off than we are? . . . . . He is very desponding, and says the people are incapable of redress, and unworthy of liberty; that he is confirmed in this by the late transaction, which must have succeeded but for their barbarous desertion and want of unanimity. He thinks that the invasion will not take place at all, but that it is the plan to wear down the English by the expence of frequent perparation."

No. III. found in the desk in Thomas-street.—"I have but little time to look at the thousand difficulties between me and the completion of my wishes; that they would succeed I have ardent and, I trust, rational hopes; but if that should not be the case, I thank God for having gifted me with a sanguine disposition; so that I run from reflection; and if my hopes are without foundation—if a precipice be opening under my feet, from which duty will not suffer me to depart, I am thankful for that disposition which leads me on to it, and hurls me down, while my eyes are raised to the visions of happiness which my fancy has formed in the air."

No. IV. was the manuscript of the Proclamation of the Provisional Government, found in the desk in Thomas-street.—When this unfortunate young man was called upon to know if he had any thing to say why sentence of death should not be passed upon him, he addressed the court and jury nearly in the following terms:

"I am asked if I have any thing to say why sentence of death should not be pronounced upon me. Was I to suffer only death, after being adjudged guilty, I should bow in silence; but a man in my situation has not only to combat with the difficulties of fortune, but also the

difficulties of prejudice; the sentence of the law which delivers over his body to the executioner, consigns his character to obloquy. The man dies, but his memory lives; and that mine may not forfeit all claim to the respect of my countrymen, I use this occasion to vindicate myself from some of the charges advanced against me.

I am charged with being an emissary of France:—'tis false! I am no emissary—I did not wish to deliver up my country to a foreign power, and least of all, to France. No! never did I entertain the idea of establishing French power in Ireland—God forbid! On the contrary, it is evident from the introductory paragraph of the Address of the Provisional Government, that every hazard attending an independent effort was deemed preferable to the more fatal risk of introducing a French army into the country. Small would be our claims to patriotism and to sense, and palpable our affectation of the love of liberty, if we were to encourage the profanation of our shores by a people who are slaves themselves, and the unprincipled and abandoned instruments of imposing slavery on others. If such an inference be drawn from any part of the proclamation of the Provisional Government, it calumniates their views, and is not warranted by the fact.—How could they speak of freedom to their countrymen? How assume such an exalted motive, and meditate the introduction of a power which has been the enemy of freedom in every part of the globe? Reviewing the conduct of France to other countries, could we expect better towards us? No! Let not, then, any man attaint my memory by believing that I could have hoped freedom through the aid of France, and betrayed the sacred cause of liberty by committing it to the power of her most determined foe: had I done so, I had not deserved to live; and dying with such a weight upon my character, I had merited the honest execration of that country which gave me birth, and to which I would have given freedom.

Had I been in Switzerland, I would have fought against the French—in the dignity of freedom, I would have ex-

pired on the threshold of that country, and they should have entered it only by passing over my lifeless corpse. Is it, then, to be supposed, that I would be slow to make the same sacrifice to my native land? Am I, who lived but to be of service to my country, and who would subject myself to the bondage of the grave to give her independence—am I to be loaded with the foul and grievous calumny of being an emissary of France? My lords, it may be part of the system of angry justice to bow a man's mind by humiliation to meet the ignominy of the scaffold; but worse to me than the scaffold's shame or the scaffold's terrors, would be the imputation of having been the agent of French despotism and ambition; and while I have breath I will call upon my countrymen not to believe me guilty of so foul a crime against their liberties and their happiness.

Though you, my lord, sit there a judge, and I stand here a culprit, yet you are but a man, and I am another; I have a right therefore to vindicate my character and motives from the aspersions of calumny; and as a man to whom fame is dearer than life, I will make the last use of that life in rescuing my name and my memory from the afflicting imputation of having been an emissary of France, or seeking her interference in the internal regulation of our affairs.

Did I live to see a French army approach this country, I would meet it on the shore with a torch in one hand and a sword in the other—I would receive them with all the destruction of war! I would animate my countrymen to immolate them in their very boats; and before our native soil should be polluted by a foreign foe, if they succeeded in landing, I would burn every blade of grass before them, raze every house, contend to the last for every inch of ground, and the last spot on which the hope of freedom should desert me, that spot I would make my grave! What I cannot do, I leave a legacy to my country, because I feel conscious that my death were unprofitable, and all hope of liberty extinct, the moment a French army

obtained a footing in this land."—After some further matter, he concluded thus.

My lamp of life is nearly expired—my race is finished: the grave opens to receive me, and I sink into its bosom. All I request then, at parting from the world, is the charity of its silence. Let no man write my epitaph, for as no man who knows my motives dare vindicate them, let not prejudice or ignorance asperse them; let them and me repose in obscurity and peace, and my tomb remain undescribed, till other times and other men can do justice to my character."

The foregoing is a faithful report of this unfortunate young man's exculpation of himself from the charge of co-operating with the French in any design to invade this country; and whether voluntary or involuntary, it is an evidence against the character of the common enemy, which, coming from such authority, ought, and we trust will have the most salutary effect upon all who may have participated in his principles or his treasons.

Whether the sincere conviction of his mind, or the imposition of pride, anxious to rescue his memory from the foul shame of having sought to deliver his country up to a foreign and a cruel enemy, he is entitled to equal credit, and if any thing were inscribed on his tomb most honourable to himself and atoning to his country, it is the character which he has given of the arch-foe to the peace and liberty of mankind.

The court listened to him with a great deal of patience, and although indignation was visible in the countenance of every person in court at this public avowal of his guilt, yet not a murmur was heard. Lord Norbury, after a salutary remonstrance to the prisoner, and paying a handsome compliment to some of the respectable members of the family to which he belonged, pronounced the awful sentence of the law in cases of High Treason.

Mr. Emmett, after his trial, was taken to Newgate, where dinner had been prepared for him. He there re-

quested to see one of the gentlemen who were engaged in his defence. To him, it is generally rumoured, he made a full disclosure of all the means he had used to effect the late insurrection, and authorised him to make it known to government.

He declared himself the chief mover and instigator of that attempt to effect a revolution, and solemnly denied having any associates in this country of either property or respectability. He accounted for the expences incurred in preparations for rebellion, by stating that he had received on the death of his father, 3500l. and that he had expended of that sum 2500l. in purchasing the arms found in the depot in Marshelsea-lane.

He also denied having solicited or received any assistance from the French government, and protested, were this country invaded by Frenchmen, from his information of their principles and conduct wherever they went, that he would be one of the most zealous in the expulsion of such treacherous, rapacious, and sanguinary miscreants.

At the place of execution he expressed the same sentiments.

LEWIS HOUSSART,

MURDERER.

Executed at Shoreditch, London, December 7th, 1726.

THIS man was born at Sedan, in France; but his parents being Protestants, he quitted that kingdom, in consequence of an edict of Louis XIV. and settled in Dutch Brabant. His father placed him with a barber-surgeon at Amsterdam, with whom he lived a considerable time, and then served as a surgeon on board a Dutch ship, which he quitted on account of his ill state of health, and came to England.

Here he became acquainted with Anne Rondeau, whom he married at the French church in Spitalfields. Having lived about three years with his wife at Hoxton, he left her in disgust, and, going into the city, passed for a single man, working as a barber and hair-dresser; and got acquainted with a Mrs. Hern, of Princes-street, Lothbury, whom he also married at St. Antholin's church. No sooner was the ceremony performed, than the company went to drink wine at an adjacent tavern, when the parish clerk observed that Houssart changed countenance, and some of the company asked him if he repented of his bargain; to which he answered in the negative.

It appears, as if he had now come to the resolution of murdering his first wife; for he had not been long married before his second charging him with a former matrimonial connexion, he desired her to be easy, for she would be convinced, in a short time, he had no other wife but herself. During this interval, his first wife lived with her

mother in Swan-alley, Shoreditch; and Mrs. Houssart being in an ill state of health, her husband called on her about a fortnight before the perpetration of the murder, and told her he would bring something to relieve her. The next day he gave her a medicine that had the appearance of conserve of roses, which threw her into such severe convulsion fits, that her life was despaired of for some hours—but at length she recovered.

This scheme failing, Houssart determined to murder her; to effect which, and conceal the crime he took the following method.

Having directed his second wife to meet him at the Turk's-Head in Bishopgate-street, she went thither and waited for him. In the mean time he dressed himself in a white great coat, and walked out with a cane in his hand, and a sword by his side. Going to the end of Swan-alley, Shoreditch, he gave a boy a penny to go into the lodgings of his first wife, and her mother, Mrs. Rondeau, and tell the old woman that a gentleman wanted to speak with her at the Black-Dog in Bishopgate-street. Mrs. Rondeau saying she would wait on the gentleman, Houssart hid himself in the alley, till the boy told him she was gone out, and then went to his wife's room, and cut her throat with a razor—and, thus murdered, she was found by her mother on her return from the Black-Dog, after inquiring in vain for the gentleman who was said to be waiting for her.

In the interim, Houssart went to his other wife at the Turk's-Head, where he appeared much dejected, and had some sudden starts of passion. The landlady of the house, who was at supper with his wife, expressing some surprise at his behaviour, he became more calm, and said he was only uneasy lest her husband should return and find him so meanly dressed—and soon after this Houssart and his wife went home.

Mrs. Rondeau, on finding her daughter murdered, hastened to her son, to whom she related the affair: and he

having heard that Houssart lodged in Lothbury, took a constable, went thither, and said he was come to apprehend him on suspicion of having murdered his wife; on which he laughed loudly, and asked if any thing in his looks indicated that he could be guilty of such a crime. Being committed to Newgate, he was tried at the next sessions at the Old-Bailey, but acquitted, for want of the evidence of the boy, who was not found till a considerable time afterwards: but the court ordered the prisoner to remain in Newgate, to take his trial for bigamy.

In consequence hereof he was indicted at the next sessions, when full proof was brought of both his marriages; but an objection was made by his counsel, on a point of law, "Whether he could be guilty of bigamy, as the first marriage was performed by a French minister, and he was only once married according to the form of the church of England." On this the jury brought in a special verdict, subject to the determination of the twelve judges.

While Houssart lay in Newgate, awaiting the solemn award, the boy whom he had employed to go into the house of Mrs. Rondeau, and who had hitherto kept secret the whole transaction, being in conversation with his mother, asked her what would become of the boy if he should be apprehended. The mother told him he would be only sworn to tell the truth. "Why, said he, I thought they would hang him:" but the mother satisfying him there was no danger of any such consequence, and talking farther with him on the subject, he confessed he was the boy who went with the message.

Hereupon he was taken to Solomon Rondeau, brother of the deceased, who went with him to a justice of peace, and the latter ordered a constable to attend him to Newgate, where he fixed on Houssart as the person who had employed him in the manner above-mentioned. Hereupon Solomon Rondeau lodged an appeal against the prisoner; but in consequence of some bad Latin in it, the proceedings were stopped. Another appeal was lodged the

next sessions, and the prisoner urging he was not prepared for his trial, he was indulged to a subsequent sessions. The appeal was brought in the name of Solomon Rondeau, as heir to the deceased; and the names of John Doe and Richard Roe were entered in the common form, as pledges to prosecute.

When the trial came on, the counsel for the prisoner stated the following pleas, in bar to, and abatement of, the proceedings:—

1. That besides the appeal, to which he now pleaded, there was another yet depending, and undetermined.

2. A misnomer, because his name was not Lewis, but Louis.

3. That the addition of labourer was wrong, for he was not a labourer, but a barber-surgeon.

4. That there were no such persons as John Doe and Richard Roe, who were mentioned as pledges in the appeal.

5. That Henry Rondeau was the brother and heir to the deceased; that Solomon Rondeau was not her brother and heir, and therefore was not the proper appellant; and,

6. That the defendant was not guilty of the facts charged in the appeal.

The replies of the counsel for the appellant were as follow;—"To the first, that the former appeal was already quashed, and therefore could not be depending and undetermined. To the second, that it appeared that the prisoner had owned the name of Lewis, by pleading to it on two indictments, the one for bigamy, and the other for murder; and his hand-writing was produced, in which he had spelt his name Lewis; and it was likewise proved that he had usually answered to that name. To the third, it was urged that, on the two former indictments, he had pleaded to the addition of labourer; and a person swore

that the prisoner worked as a journeyman or servant, and did not carry on his business as a master. To the fourth, it was urged, that there were two such persons in Middlesex, the one a weaver, and the other a soldier—and this fact was sworn to. In answer to the fifth, Ann Rondeau, the mother of the deceased, swore that she had no children except the murdered party, and Solomon Rondeau, the appellant: that Solomon was brother and heir to the deceased, which Henry Rondeau was not, being only the son of her husband by a former wife.—With regard to the last article, respecting his being not guilty, that was left to be determined by the opinion of the jury."

The trial having now commenced, the same witnesses were examined as before, to which was added the evidence of the boy, which was so forcible that the Jury brought in the prisoner guilty, and he received sentence of death. His behaviour after conviction was very improper, and as the day of execution drew nearer, he became still more hardened, having frequently declared that he would cut his own throat, as the Jury had found him guilty of cutting that of his wife. His behaviour at the place of execution was equally indecorous. He refused to pray with the Ordinary of Newgate, and another clergyman, who kindly attended to assist him in his devotions.

He suffered opposite the end of Swan Alley, in Shoreditch, near the place where the murder was committed, on the 7th of December, 1724.

JOHN RANN, alias SIXTEEN-STRING JACK,

HIGHWAYMAN.

Executed at TYBURN, Nov. 30th, 1774.

THIS offender was born at a village a few miles from Bath, of honest parents, who were in low circumstances, and incapable of giving him any kind of education. For some time he obtained a livelihood by vending goods, which he drove round the city and adjacent country on an ass. A lady of distinction, who happened to be at Bath, took him into her service when he was about twelve years of age; and his behaviour was such, that he became the favourite of his mistress and fellow-servants.

At length he came to London, and got employment as a helper in the stables at Brooke's Mews; in which station he bore a good character. He then became the driver of a postchaise, after which he was servant to an officer; and in both these stations was well spoken of. He then became coachman to a gentleman of fortune near Portman-square; and it was at this period that he dressed in the manner which gave rise to the appellation of *Sixteen-String Jack*, by wearing breeches with eight strings at each knee. After living in the service of several noblemen, he lost his character, and turned pick-pocket, in company with three fellows, named Jones, Clayton, and Colledge, the latter of whom (a mere boy) obtained the name of *Eight-String Jack*.

At the sessions held at the Old-Bailey in April, 1774, Rann, Clayton, and one Shepherd, were tried for robbing one Mr. William Somers on the highway, and ac-

quitted for want of evidence. They were again tried for robbing Mr. Langford, but acquitted for the same reason.—Rann had for some time kept company with a young woman named Roche, who, having being apprenticed to a milliner, and being seduced by an officer of the guards, was reduced to obtain bread by the casual wages of infamy; and, at length, associating with highwaymen, received such valuable effects as they took on the road.

On the 30th of May, he was taken into custody, and being brought to Bow-street on the following Wednesday, was charged with robbing John Devall, Esq. near the nine-mile stone, on the Hounslow road, of his watch and money. This watch he had given to Eleanor Roche, who had delivered it to Catherine Smith, who offered it in pledge to Mr. Hallam, a pawnbroker, but who, suspecting that it was not honestly obtained, caused all the parties to be taken into custody.

Eleanor Roche was now charged with receiving the watch, knowing it to have been stolen; and Miss Smith being sworn, deposed, that, on the day Mr. Devall was robbed, Roche told her, that "she expected Rann to bring her some money in the evening;" that he accordingly came about ten at night, and having retired some time with Eleanor Roche, she, on he return, owned that she had received a watch and five guineas from him, which, he said, he had taken from a gentleman on the highway; that she, Miss Smith, carried the watch to pawn to Mr. Hallam, at the request of Miss Roche. Sir John Fielding asked Rann if he would offer any thing in his defence; on which the latter said, "I know no more of the matter than you do, nor half so much." On this occasion Rann was dressed in a manner above his style of life and his circumstances. He had a bundle of flowers in the breast of his coat, almost as large as a broom; and his irons were tied up with a number of blue ribands.

For this offence he was tried at the Old Bailey in July, 1774, and acquitted. Two or three days after his ac-

quittal, he engaged to sup with a girl at her lodgings in Bow-street, but not being punctual to his appointment, the girl went to bed, and Rann, not being able to obtain admittance at the door, attempted to get in at the window on the first floor, and had nearly accomplished his purpose, when he was taken into custody by the watchman. For this burglarous attempt he was examined at Bow-street on the 27th of July, when the girl, whose apartments he had attempted to break open, declared that he could not have had any felonious intention, as he knew that he would have been a welcome guest, and have been readily admitted, if she had not fallen asleep. On this he was dismissed, after Sir John Fielding had cautioned him to leave his dangerous profession, and seek for some more honest means of support.

On the Sunday following, he appeared at Bagnigge-wells, dressed in a scarlet coat, tambour waistcoat, white silk stockings, laced hat, &c. and publickly declared himself to be a highwayman. Having drank pretty freely, he became extremely quarrelsome, and several scuffles ensued, in one of which he lost a ring from his finger, and and when he discovered his loss, he said it was but an hundred guineas gone, which one evening's work would replace.

He became at length so troublesome that part of the company agreed to turn him out of the house; but they met with so obstinate a resistance, that they were obliged to give up their design, when a number of young fellows possessed of more spirit than discretion, attacked this magnanimous hero, and actually forced him through the window into the road. Rann was not much injured by this severe treatment; but he complained bitterly against those who could so basely affront a gentleman of his character.

Being arrested for a debt of 50l. which he was unable to pay, he was confined in the Marshalsea prison, where he was visited by several friends, some of whom paid his debt, and procured his discharge. At another time,

while with two companions at an ale-house in Tottenham-court-road, he was arrested by two sheriff's officers, and not having money to pay the demand, he deposited his watch in the hands of the bailiffs while his associates advanced three guineas, which together made more than the amount of the debt; and a balance was to be returned to Rann when the watch should be redeemed: he told the bailiffs that, if they would lend him five shillings, he would treat them with a crown bowl of punch. This they readily did; and while they were drinking, Rann said to the officers, "You have not treated me like a gentleman. When Sir John Fielding's people come after me, they use me genteelly; they only hold up a finger, beckon me, and I follow them as quietly as a lamb."

When the bailiffs were gone, Ran and his companions rode off; but our hero soon returning, stopped at the turnpike, and asked if he had been wanted. "No," said the tollman. "Why," replied the other, "I am sixteen-string Jack, the celebrated highwayman——have any of Sir John Fielding's people been this way? "Yes," said the man, "some of them are but just gone through." Rann replied, "If you see them again, tell them I am gone towards London;" and then rode off with the utmost unconcern.

Soon afterwards he appeared at Barnet races, dressed in a most elegant sporting style, his waistcoat being blue satin trimmed with silver; and he was followed by hundreds of people, who were eager to gratify their curiosity by the sight of a man who had been so much the object of public conversation. But what is more remarkable, he attended a public execution at Tyburn, and getting within the ring formed by the constables round the gallows, desired that he might be permitted to stand there, "for, said he, perhaps it is very proper that I should be a spectator on this occasion."

On the 26th of September, 1774, he and William Collier went on the Uxbridge road, with a view to commit robberies on the highway; and on the Wednesday follow-

ing they were examined at the public-office in Bow-street, when Dr. William Bell, chaplain to the princess Amelia, deposed, that between three and four o'clock in the afternoon of Monday the 26th of September, as he was riding near Ealing, he observed two men, rather of a mean appearance, who rode past him; and that he remarked they had suspicious looks; yet neither at that time, nor for some little time afterwards, had he any idea of being robbed; that soon afterwards one of them, which he believed was Rann, crossed the head of his horse, and, demanding his money, said, "Give it me, and take no notice, or I'll blow your brains out." On this the Doctor gave him one shilling and six-pence, which was all the silver he had, and likewise a common watch in a tortoise-shell case.

On the evening of the day on which the robbery was committed, Eleanor Roche, and her maid-servant, carried a watch to pledge with Mr. Cordy, pawnbroker in Oxford-road, who, suspecting that it had not been honestly acquired, stopped it, and applied to Mr. Grignion, watchmaker in Russel-street, Govent-Garden, who had made the watch for Dr. Bell. Mr. Clarke swore, that, on going to Miss Roche's lodgings on the Monday night, he found two pair of boots wet and dirty, which had evidently been worn that day; and Mr. Haliburton swore, that he waited at Miss Roche's lodgings till Rann and Collier came thither; in consequence of which they were taken into custody.

On the 5th of October, John Rann, William Collier, Eleanor Roche, and Christian Stewart, servant to Roche, were brought to Bow-street; when Dr. Bell deposed in substance as he had done the preceding week: and William Hills, servant to the princess Amelia, swore that he saw Rann, whom he well knew, ascend the hill at Acton about twenty minutes before the robbery was committed; a circumstance which perfectly agreed with Dr. Bell's account of the time that he was robbed. Hereupon John

Rann and William Collier were committed to Newgate, to take their trials for the highway robbery; Eleanor Roche was sent to Clerkenwell bridewell, and Christian Stewart, her servant, to Tothill-fields bridewell, to be tried as accessaries after the fact.

On this trial some favourable circumstances appearing in behalf of Collier, he was recommended to mercy, and afterwards respited during the king's pleasure. Eleanor Roche was sentenced to be transported for fourteen years: her servant was acquitted; and Rann was left for execution. When Rann was brought down to take his trial, he was dressed in a new suit of pea-green clothes; his hat was bound round with silver strings; he wore a ruffled shirt, and his behaviour evinced the utmost unconcern. He was so confident of being acquitted, that he had ordered a genteel supper to be provided for the entertainment of his particular friends and associates on the joyful acquittal: but their intended mirth was soon turned into real mourning.

On receiving his sentence, he attempted to force a smile, but was evidently not a smile of inward satisfaction. After conviction his behaviour was, for some time, very improper.

On Sunday the 23d of October, he had seven girls to dine with him. The company were remarkable cheerful; nor was Rann less joyous than his companions. However, when the warrant for his execution arrived, he began to think seriously of an hereafter.

On the morning of execution he received the sacrament in the chapel of the prison, and at the tree behaved with great decency; on first approaching it, he turned round and looked at it as an object which he had long expected to see; though not as on one that he should have dreaded.

He suffered at Tyburn on the 30th of November, 1774. His body being cut down, was delivered to his friends for interment.

CHRIST. JOHNSON, AND JOHN STOCKDALE,

MURDERERS.

Executed at TYBURN, July 2d, 1753.

JOHNSON was born in Newgate, being the son of Roger Johnson and his wife, who were prisoners on a charge of a defraud. Soon after they obtained their liberty the father died; and the mother sent the child to her relations at Derby, who, having given him a tolerable education, apprenticed him to a saddler; but at the expiration of three years, he ran away, and travelled to London.

On his arrival he went to some of his mother's relations, who persuaded him to return to Derby: but deaf to their advice, and having imbibed false ideas of gentility, he procured some elegant clothes, and frequented the gaming-houses, where he soon made the most dangerous connexions, and arrived at the head of his profession.

From the practice of gaming, he took to that of forgery; at which he was remarkably expert in the imitating the hands of other people to notes payable to himself; by which he repeatedly acquired money, but still escaped detection.

His daringness was such, that he sometimes arrested persons on whom he had committed forgeries, and compelled the payment of the money, by having people to swear that the hand-writing was that of the party whose name was subscribed to the draft.

The following is one specimen of his devices. He forged a note on a lady of considerable fortune, and signed her name to it so like her writing, that she almost discredited her own sight when she read it. Johnson arrested her; but as she knew she had given no such note, she bailed the action, and prepared to stand trial; but the guilty man declined all farther proceedings.

During this abandoned course of life, he became acquainted with the daughter of a man who kept an alehouse in the Strand; and they were privately married in the Fleet; but animosities soon arising between them, they proceeded from words to blows; the consequence of which was, that they parted, and his wife became a common street-walker.

After this, Johnson took to picking pockets, and other practices of defraud; but a miserable poverty still attended him, for what he got dishonestly was soon spent in dissipation. At length he met with Stockdale at Sadler's-wells, and agreed to see him the next evening at a house in Holborn.

STOCKDALE was born at Leicester, where his father was a reputable proctor, who gave him an excellent education, but was too fond of him to keep that strict guard over his conduct which might have been essential to his future welfare. He very soon showed a disposition to idleness, which was not properly checked by his parents, who would not permit his school-master to chastise him for his faults.

When the father saw his error, he determined, in pursuance of the advice of some friends, to send him to a proctor in Doctors Commons, where he hoped to hear of a speedy reformation in his manners.

Stockdale, however, was of too idle a disposition to brook confinement. His extravagance exceeded the bounds of his father's allowance, and he borrowed of his acquaintance to supply his immediate wants.

In this way he went on, frequenting places of public diversion, till those who had lent him money teazed him

for a return of it; and he was at a loss for farther resources, when he met Johnson at Sadler's-wells, as above mentioned.

On the following day, these ill-fated youths met at the appointed place, and made a contract for their mutual destruction. At this time Johnson was under twenty, and Stockdale not eighteen years of age.

The following are given as the words in which Johnson addressed his new acquaintance: "Stockdale, I am glad that you are a young fellow of spirit; let me therefore beg that you will divest yourself of all foolish scruples, and behave with bravery, like one who deserves the name of a hero. Why should a few worthless fellows roll in heaps of gold, while such free souls as we are starving for want, and obliged to skulk in corners? For my part, I know not what right any man, or any set of men, have to engross the products of the earth; and as gold comes out of the earth, both you and I have a right to it. This is my opinion, and I am determined to support it with sword and pistol, at the expence of my life. We have nothing to do but enter upon the action, and I have already laid a scheme for our first exploit. There is an old miser, who lives about ten miles off, and has always a great sum of money by him: let you and I pay him a visit; and then I am pretty confident we shall not return with empty pockets."

We give this as the words were said to have been spoken; but they have more the air of being manufactured by the ordinary of Newgate: for how should any one know what passed between the offenders at their first private meeting, except from the confession of one of them? and in that case, the remembering the exact words seems to be wholly improbable.

Be this as it may, Stockdale agreed to accompany Johnson; and the next day they hired horses, and rode towards Rumford, near which the party lived whom they intended to rob: and having wasted the time till night, they tied their horses to a hedge, and being armed with

pistols, they knocked at the door, which being opened by the old gentleman, Johnson presented a pistol to his breast; and then they bound him and his two servants, and told the master, that he must expect immediate death, if he did not discover where his money was concealed.

Terrified by this threat, he told them to take a key from his pocket, which would open a bureau, where they would find a bag containing all the cash then in his possession. The robbers having seized the property, Johnson put the bag in his pocket, and they re-mounted, and rode to London, where they found the booty to consist of one hundred and fifty pounds: but this they soon dissipated in acts of extravagance; and then proceeded to commit a number of robberies on the roads of Essex and Kent.

It is now proper to mention the crime for which they suffered; a murder, equally barbarous and unprovoked. They took horses in Holborn, and having rode to Edmonton, turned up a lane, where they met a postman who was carrying letters round the neighbourhood: the man good-naturedly opened a gate for them to pass, when Johnson demanded his money and watch, which he held out to them, and at that instant was shot dead by Stockdale.

The murder was no sooner committed than they hastened to London; and though the country was alarmed by what had happened, they rode on the following day to Hounslow, where they dined. After dinner they called for their horses: but Stockdale was so intoxicated that he at first fell from the horse, but was replaced.

The magistrates having by this time sent out a number of constables, the murderers were taken into custody, and carried before a magistrate; when Stockdale acknowledged his guilt; but by this time Johnson was so drunk, that he was insensible of his commitment to Newgate.

When Stockdale's master heard of his unhappy situation, he immediately wrote to his father, who coming to London, had a very affecting interview with his son, who

exclaimed, " O, Sir, how shall I look you in the face! what disgrace have I brought upon you, what destruction upon myself! A shameful death is preparing for me in this world: but what in the next, God knows!"

The father advised him to an early preparation for the awful fate that awaited him, and refused to flatter him with hopes of that pardon which could not reasonably be expected. He comforted himself accordingly, and intended to have pleaded guilty, but was afterwards advised not to do so.

While in Newgate Johnson was attacked by a violent fever: and on the day of trial was so reduced, that it was necessary to carry him into court, where the judges permitted him a chair to repose himself during the trial. The jury being satisfied with the evidence against the culprits, they were found guilty, and sentence of death was passed on them.

Stockdale spent his time till the execution in the most devout manner; but Johnson was too ill to attend the customary offices of religion. The former made a pathetic address to the populace at the place of execution; and both of them behaved with great apparent penitence.

After execution, the bodies were removed to Surgeons'-hall, in preparation for dissection: but soon afterwards an order was received from the secretary of state, that they should be hung in chains: in consequence of which, they were carried to Winchmore-hill, where they were exposed by way of warning and example.

These malefactors suffered at Tyburn, on the 2d of July, 1753.

ROBERT AND DANIEL PERREAU,

FORGERS.

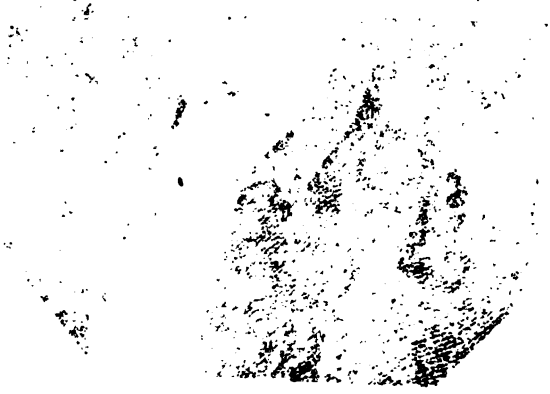
Executed at TYBURN, Jan. 17th, 1776.

THERE is something so interesting in the case of the above unfortunate twin-brothers who fell victims to the vilest artifices of a deluded woman, that the reader will be pleased to have a full and explicit relation of it. One was an apothecary of great practice, the other living in the style of a gentleman.

On the 10th of March, 1775, discovery having been made of a series of forgeries, said to have been carried on for a length of time by these brothers. Robert and Daniel Perreau, together with Mrs. Margaret Caroline Rudd, who lived with the latter as his wife, and who was deemed to have been a principal agent in the forgeries, were taken into custody, and carried before the bench of magistrates in Bow-street, where the crowd attending to hear their examination was so great, that it became necessary to adjourn to the Guildhall, Westminster. The evidence there adduced tended to prove that the parties had raised considerable sums by bonds forged in the name of the well known agent, William Adair, Esq. which they imposed on several gentlemen of fortune, as collateral securities, with their own notes for the payment of the said sums.

Robert Perreau, whose character had been hitherto unimpeachable, applied to Mr. Drummond, the banker, to lend him five thousand pounds, and offered a bond of se-

ROBERT PERREAU.



ven thousand five hundred pounds, which he said Mr. Adair had given to his brother, as a security for the payment. In order to give colour to the validity of these bonds, it had been artfully suggested, that Mrs. Rudd had near connexions with Mr. Adair; and it was even insinuated, that she was his natural daughter: but Mr. Drummond, to whom Mr. Adair's writing was familiar, had no sooner looked at the signature, than he doubted its authenticity, and very politely asked Robert Perreau, if he had seen Mr. Adair sign it? The latter said he had not, but had no doubt but it was authentic, from the nature of the connexion that subsisted. To this Mr. Drummond said, that he could not advance such a sum without consulting his brother, and desired Perreau to leave the bond, promising to return it the next morning, or advance on it the sum required. Mr. Perreau made no scruple to leave the bond, and call in the morning. In the interim Mr. Drummond examined the bond with the greater attention; and Mr. Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty, happening to call, his opinion was demanded; when comparing the signature of the bond with letters he had lately received from Mr. Adair, he was firmly convinced that it was forged.

When Perreau came, Mr. Drummond spoke more freely than he had done before, and told him that he imagined he had been imposed on; but begged that, to remove all doubt, he would go with him to Mr. Adair, and get that gentleman to acknowledge the validity of the bond; on which the money should be advanced. Perreau made not the least objection. They went together; and Mr. Adair was asked if the bond was his. He declared it was not his; but Perreau smiled, and said he jested. Mr. Adair told him that it was no jesting matter, and that it was his duty to clear up the affair. Perreau said, "if that was the case, he had been sent on a fine errand!" He desired to have the bond, and said he would make the necessary inquiries: but this was refused, and it was

thought a point of prudence to watch the motions of Robert Perreau, till Daniel and his pretended wife were produced. Soon after he returned home, the three parties went into a coach; and, *according to the lady's own testimony*, Mrs. Rudd took with her what money and valuables she could conveniently carry; and said, that the brothers had taken her money, gold, watch, and jewels, into their possession: but no reason was assigned for their doing so. Their escape, however, if such was intended, was prevented; for an information being laid against them, they were immediately apprehended.

In the examination before Sir John Fielding, the above facts were attested by Mr. Adair, Mr. Drummond, and other persons; and Sir Thomas Frankland charged them with obtaining from him four thousand pounds on the first application, which they honestly repaid before the money became due; afterwards five thousand pounds, and then four thousand pounds, on similar bonds, all signed with the name of Mr. Adair. Mr. Watson, a money-scrivener, said, that he had drawn eight bonds, all of them ordered by one or other of the brothers; but he hesitated to fix on either, on account of their great personal resemblance: but being pressed to make a positive declaration, he fixed on Daniel as his employer.

Dr. Brooke charged the brothers with obtaining from him fifteen bonds of the bank of Adair, each of the value of one hundred pounds, upon the security of a forged bond for three thousand one hundred pounds. On the strength of this evidence the brothers were committed, the one to New Prison, and the other to Clerkenwell Bridewell; and Mrs. Rudd was admitted an evidence for the crown. On her future examination she declared that she was the daughter of a nobleman in Scotland; that, when young, she married an officer in the army, named Rudd, against the consent of her friends; that her fortune was considerable; that, on a disagreement with her husband, they resolved to part; that she made a reserve of money, jewels, and effects, to the amount of thirteen

thousand pounds, all of which she gave to Daniel Perreau, whom she said she loved with the tenderness of a wife; that she had three children by him; that he had returned her kindness in every respect till lately, when having been unfortunate in gaming in the alley, he had become uneasy, peevish, and much altered to her; that he cruelly constrained her to sign the bond now in question, by holding a knife to her throat, and swearing that he would murder her if she did not comply; that, being struck with remorse, she had acquainted Mr. Adair with what she had done, and that she was now willing to declare every transaction with which she was acquainted, whenever she should be called upon by law so to do.

On their trial at the Old Bailey in June, 1775, Mr. Drummond deposed, that Robert Perreau requested the loan of one thousand four hundred pounds, having made a purchase in Suffolk or Norfolk, to the amount of twelve thousand pounds. He said he had a house in Harley-street, Cavendish-square, which cost four thousand pounds, the deeds of which house he would leave as a security. These he did leave, and promising to return in ten days, the money was paid him. He came some time afterwards, and apologized for not having kept his appointment; and said he then came to borrow five thousand pounds on the bond, out of which he would pay the one thousand four hundred pounds above-mentioned. Mr. Drummond and his brother doubting the validity of the bond, Perreau said there were family connexions between him and Mr. Adair, "who had money of his in his hands, for which he paid interest. That going with the prisoner to Mr. Adair's, Mrs. Daniel Perreau (Mrs. Rudd) was sent for, when Robert asked her, if she had not given the bond to him. She owned that she had, took the whole on herself, and acknowledged that she had forged the bond. The counsel for the prisoner asking Mr. Drummond if he was certain that the prisoner said it was *his* money that Mr. Adair paid interest for, he answered in the affirmative. He declared likewise, that Mr. Perreau did no max th

least objection to leave the bond with him, nor showed any reluctance in going with him to Mr. Adair's house. He likewise said, that Mrs. Rudd took the whole on herself, begged them, "for God's sake, to have mercy on an innocent man;" and that she said no injury was intended to any person, and that all would be paid; and that she acknowledged delivering the bond to the prisoner. The counsel demanding if Mr. Drummond and Mr. Adair, after hearing what Mrs. Rudd said, had not expressed themselves as considering the prisoner as her dupe; the answer was, "We both expressed ourselves to that effect. A constable had been sent for, and we discharged him." The identity of the bond was proved by Mr. Wheatley, clerk to Messrs. Drummond.

The evidence of Mr. Robert Drummond was not, in any very essential point, different from that of his brother. He deposed, that when Mrs. Rudd had acknowledged that she forged the bond, he expressed his doubt, the hand-writing being so different from that of a woman, and said nothing would convince him of it but her showing, on a piece of paper, that she could write that sort of hand. He said he did not mean to ensnare her, and would immediately throw the writing into the fire. Mrs. Rudd instantly wrote William Adair, or part of the name, so very like the signature of the bond, that it satisfied him, and he burnt the paper. Robert Perreau then said, that "he hoped that the information she had given sufficiently acquitted him:" but he was told that he had better not inquire into that; and on this occasion he showed the first sign of anxiety. Sir Thomas Frankland deposed, that the prisoner brought him two bonds at different times, one to Daniel Perreau for six thousand pounds, and the other to himself (Robert) for five thousand three hundred pounds: that for five thousand three hundred pounds, on which he lent him four thousand pounds, was to be repaid on the 26th of March, with the three days grace; the other was due on the 8th of March.—Consequently it appeared that

the money to be borrowed of Mr. Drummond was designed to repay the money actually borrowed of Sir Thomas.

Mr. Wilson declared, that he filled up the bond at the desire of the prisoner; and produced his instructions for so doing. He likewise acknowledged that he had filled up other bonds for the prisoner. That the hand-writing at the bottom of the bond was not the hand-writing of William Adair, was proved by Scroope Ogilvie and James Adair, Esqrs. Mr. James Adair was now questioned by counsel respecting a private interview he had with Mrs. Rudd; but the court doubted if this might be allowed as evidence.

After some observations made by the counsel for the prisoner, a letter was read, which he presumed had been sent him by William Adair, Esq. but which appeared to have been written by Mrs. Rudd, and was scarcely intelligible. Robert Perreau, when called upon for his defence, observed:

"My Lords, and Gentlemen of the Jury,

"If I had been wanting in that fortitude, which is the result of innocence, or had found any hesitation in submitting my proceedings to the strictest scrutiny, I need not at this day have stood before my country, or set my life upon the issue of a legal trial. Supported by the consciousness of my integrity, I have forced that transaction to light, which might else have been suppressed; and I have voluntarily sought that imprisonment which guilt never invites, and even innocence has been known to fly from; ardently looking forward to this hour, as the sure, though painful, means of vindicating a character, not distinguished, indeed, for its importance, but hitherto maintained without a blemish. There are many respectable witnesses at hand, (and many more, I persuade myself, would be found, if it had been necessary to summon them upon a point of such notoriety) who will inform your Lordships and the court, how I have appeared to

them to act; what trust has been reposed in me, and what credit I had in their opinions, for my diligence, honesty, and punctuality. In truth, my Lords, I am bold to say that few men, in my line of life, have carried on their business with a fairer character, not many with better success. I have followed no pleasures, nor launched into any expenses: there is not a man living who can charge me with neglect or dissipation. The honest profits of my trade have afforded me a comfortable support, and furnished me with the means of maintaining, in a decent sort, a worthy wife, and three promising children, upon whom I was labouring to bestow the properest education in my power: in short, we were as happy as affluence and innocence could make us, till this affliction came upon us by surprize, and I was made the dupe of a transaction from the criminality whereof I call God, the searcher of all human hearts, to witness, I am now as free as I was at the day of my birth. My Lords, and Gentlemen of the Jury, men who are unpractised in deceit, will be apt to credit others for a sincerity which they themselves possess. The most undesigning characters have at all times been the dupe of craft and subtilty. A plain story, with the indulgence of the court, I will relate, which will furnish strong instances of credulity on one part, and at the same time will exhibit a train of such consummate artifices on the other, as are not to be equalled in the annals of iniquity, and which might have extorted an equal confidence from a much more enlightened understanding than I can claim."

Here he proceeded to relate a variety of circumstances, relative to the imposition practised on him by Mrs. Rudd. He said, that she was constantly conversing about the interest she had with Mr. W. Adair; and that Mr. Adair had, by his interest with the King, obtained the promise of a baronetage for Daniel Perreau, and was about procuring him a seat in Parliament. That Mr. Adair had promised to open a bank, and take them both into part-

nership with him: that the prisoner received many letters signed William Adair, which he had no doubt came from that gentleman; in which were promises of giving them a considerable part of his fortune during his life, and that he was to allow Daniel Perreau two thousand four hundred pounds a year for his household expenses, and six hundred pounds a year for Mrs. Rudd's pin-money. That Mr. Daniel Perreau purchased a house in Harley-street for four thousand pounds, which money Mr. William Adair was to give them. That, when Daniel Perreau was pressed by the person he bought the house of for the money, the prisoner understood that they applied to Mr. W. Adair, and that his answer was, that he had lent the King seventy thousand pounds, and had purchased a house in Pall-Mall at seven thousand pounds, in which to carry on the banking-business, and therefore could not spare the four thousand pounds at that time.—Having related a variety of other circumstances, he thus concluded:

" My Lords, and Gentlemen of the Jury,

" I have now faithfully laid before you, such circumstances as have occurred to my memory, as necessary for your information, in order as they happened during my acquaintance with Mrs. Rudd, under the character of my brother's wife. Many have been the sufferers by artifices and impostors, but never man appeared, I believe, at this or any other tribunal, upon whom so many engines were set at work to interest his credulity. It will not escape the notice of this splendid court, that my compassion was first engaged by the story of Mrs. Rudd's sufferings, before my belief was invited to her representations. Let me have credit with you for yielding up my pity in the first instance, and you cannot wonder I did not withhold my credulity afterwards. It is in this natural, this necessary consequence, I rest my defence. I was led from error to error by such insensible degrees, that every step I

took strengthened my infatuation. When Mr. Drummond first hesitated at the hand-writing at the foot of the bond, if it did not so alarm me as to shake my belief in this artful woman, let it be considered that I had been prevailed upon to negotiate other bonds of hers, depositing them in the hands of bankers who had never spied any defect, or raised the least objection. These bonds have been regularly and punctually paid in due time.—The letters sent to me, as if from William Adair, critically agreed with the hand-writing of the bond. Mr. Adair did not keep money at Mr. Drummond's; opportunities of comparing his hand-writing for many years had not occurred, and the hesitation upon his part appeared to me no more than the exceptions and minute precautions of a banker, which could not so suddenly overturn the explicit belief that I had annexed to all that was told me in Harley-street. Can any greater proof be given than my own proposal to Mr. Drummond, of leaving the bond in his hands, till he had satisfied his credulity? Can your Lordships, or Gentlemen of the Jury, for a moment suspect, that any man would be guilty of such a crime, whose proceedings were so fair and open? that single circumstance, I am satisfied, will afford my total exculpation. The resort to Mr. Adair was as easy to Mr. Drummond, as to the books in his compting-house; it does not come within the bounds of common sense, much less does it fall within the possibility of guilt, that any man living should voluntarily, with his eyes open, take a step so directly and absolutely centering in his certain destruction. But this circumstance, strong as it is, is not all my case. I bless God, the protector of innocence, that, in my defence, proofs arise upon proofs: the least of them, I trust will be thought incompatible with guilt. It should seem impossible that a guilty person would propose to Mr. Drummond to retain the bond for the satisfaction of his scruples; but that the same person should, after so long a time for consideration had passed after my leaving the bond, which was full twenty-four hours, openly, and in the face of day, enter

the shop of Mr. Drummond, and demand if he had satisfied all his scruples, unless a man, from mere desperation, had been weary of his life, and sought a dissolution; this, I humbly apprehend, would be an absolute impossibility: but, my Lords, and Gentlemen of the Jury, I had neither in my breast the principle of guilt, nor had I that desperate loathing of existence as should bring a shameful condemnation on my head. It is true I have invited this trial; but it is equally true I have done it in the consciousness of my integrity, because I could not otherwise go through the remainder of my days with comfort and satisfaction, unless I had the verdict of my countrymen for my acquittal, and rested my innocence upon the purest testimony I could have on this side the grave. It is plain I had an opportunity of withdrawing myself. How many men are there, with the clearest intentions, yet from the apprehension of being made the talk of the public, and, above all, the dread of imprisonment, and the terror of a trial, would have thought themselves happy to have caught at any opportunity of saving themselves from such a series of distress? greater confidence can no man be in, of the integrity of his case, and the justice of his country. When it was found necessary to the designs of Mrs. Rudd, that I and my family should be made the dupes of her connexions with the house of Adair, it may well be believed that nothing but the strongest interdictions could prevent my endeavours to obtain an interview. In fact, this point was laboured with consummate artifice, and nothing less than ruin to my brother, and his affairs were denounced upon my breaking this injunction. It was part of the same error to believe her in this also. A respectable witness has told you, and I do not controvert his evidence, that my confidence in her assertion, and in the testimonials that she exhibited under the hand (as I believed,) of Mr. Adair, were such, in my mistaken judgment, as to be equal to the evidence of my own senses, pressed by the forms of business to say to Mr. Drummond, that I

had seen Mr. Adair myself; but I neither went to Mr. Adair, nor disclosed those pressing motives, which prevented me. No less free to confess my faults, than I am confident to assert my innocence, I seek no palliation for this circumstance, except my temptation and my failings; and I trust it will rather be a matter of surprise, that, in the course of a negotiation, through the whole of which I was acted upon by the most artful of impostors, that this only deviation was to be found; and yet this very circumstance carries with it a clearer conviction of my being the dupe of Mrs. Rudd's intrigues, than any I have to offer in my defence; and if my subsequent proceedings, and the alacrity I shewed in going with Mr. Drummond to Mr. Adair, together with my conduct before this gentleman, is, as I apprehend it is, absolutely irreconcileable with a consciousness of guilt, the circumstances above-mentioned will serve to shew with what a degree of credulity the artifices of Mrs. Rudd had furnished me. Upon the whole, if, in the above detail, no circumstances are discovered in which an innocent man, under the like delusion with myself, might not have acted as I have acted, and, at the same time, if there be very many particulars in which no guilty man would have conducted himself as I have conducted myself, I should be wanting in respect to your Lordships and the Jury, if I doubted the justice of their verdict, and which is inseparable from it, my honourable acquittal."

The prisoner now proceeded to call his witnesses. George Kinder deposed, that Mrs Rudd told him "that she was a near relation of Mr. James Adair; that he looked upon her as his child, had promised to make her fortune, and with that view had recommended her to Mr. William Adair, a near relation, and an intimate friend of his, who had promised to set her husband and the prisoner up in the banking business. He likewise deposed, that the said Mr. Daniel Perreau was to be made a baronet, and described how she would act when she became a lady.

This witness deposed, that Mrs. Rudd often pretended that Mr. William Adair had called to see her, but that he never had seen that gentleman on any visit. John Moody, a livery servant of Daniel Perreau, deposed, that his mistress wrote two very different hands, in one of which she wrote letters to his master, as from Mr. William Adair, and in the other the ordinary business of the family; that the letters written in the name of William Adair were pretended to have been left in his master's absence; that his mistress ordered him to give them to his master, and pretended that Mr. Adair had been with his mistress for a longer or shorter time, as circumstances required. This witness likewise proved, that the hand at the foot of the bond, and that of his mistress's fictitious writing, were precisely the same; that she used different pens, ink, and paper, in writing her common and fictitious letters; and that she sometimes gave the witness half a crown, when he had delivered a letter to her satisfaction. He said, he had seen her go two or three times to Mr. J. Adair's but never to William's; and that Mr. J. Adair once visited his mistress on her lying-in.

Susanna Perreau (the prisoner's sister) deposed, to the having seen a note delivered to Daniel Perreau, by Mrs. Rudd, for nineteen thousand pounds, drawn, as by William Adair, on Mr. Croft, the banker, in favour of Daniel Perreau. Elizabeth Perkins swore, that, a week before the forgery was discovered, her mistress gave her a letter to bring back to her in a quarter of an hour, and say it was brought by Mr. Coverley, who had been servant to Daniel Perreau: that she gave her mistress this letter, and her master instantly broke the seal. Daniel Perreau declared, that the purport of this letter was "that Mr. Adair desired her to apply to his brother, the prisoner, to procure him five thousand pounds upon his (Adair's) bond, in the same manner as he had done before; that Mr. Adair was unwilling to have it appear that the money was raised for him, and therefore desired to have the bond lodged with some confidential friend, that would not re-

quire an assignment of it; that his brother, on being made acquainted with his request, shewed a vast deal of reluctance, and said it was a very unpleasant work; but undertook it with a view of obliging Mr. William Adair."

The counsel for the prosecution demanding, "if he did not disclaim all knowledge of the affair before Mr. Adair," he said, he denied ever having seen the bond before, nor had he a perfect knowledge of it till he saw it in the hands of Mr. Adair. David Cassady, who assisted Mr. R. Perreau as an apothecary, deposed, that he lived much within the profits of his profession; and that it was reported he was going into the banking business. John Leigh, clerk to Sir John Fielding, swore to the prisoner's coming voluntarily to the office, and giving information that a forgery had been committed; on which Mrs. Rudd was apprehended. Mr. Leigh was asked, if she "ever charged the prisoner with any knowledge of the transaction till the Justices were hearing evidence to prove her confession of the fact." Mr. Leigh answered, that he did not recollect that circumstance, but that on her first examination she did not accuse the prisoner.

Mr. Perreau now called several persons of rank to his character. Lady Littleton being asked if she thought him capable of such a crime,— "supposed she could have done it as soon herself." Sir John Moore, Sir John Chapman, General Rebow, Captain Ellis, Captain Burgoyne, and other gentlemen, spoke most highly to the character of the prisoner; yet the Jury *found him guilty!!!*

On the trial of Daniel Perreau, the same facts were repeated by the same witnesses. In his defence, the prisoner declared, that Mrs. Rudd had given him the bond as a true one; that he believed it genuine, authentic, and valid; and protested, by all his hopes of happiness in this life, and in a future, that he had never conceived an idea of any thing so base as the defrauding any man of his property. He added, "I adjure the Almighty so to assist

me in my present dangerous situation, as I speak here before you. He called several persons to prove the artifices which Mrs. Rudd had practised to deceive him. Many persons of fortune and credit appeared to his character; and spoke of his conduct, previous to the fatal event, in terms of the highest approbation; but the Jury *found him also guilty!!!*

The unfortunate brothers now received sentence of death, but were not executed till January 1776, because though Mrs. Rudd had been admitted an evidence, the Judges committed her as a principal. Her trial came on, April 16, 1775, when John Moody the servant, who had sworn that she wrote two different hands, in his cross-examination acknowledged, that he had never seen her write Mr. Adair's name: therefore the Jury, after a short consultation, pronounced the following curious and singular verdict, "According to the evidence before us, Not guilty."

The behaviour of the brothers, after their conviction, was, in every respect, proper for their unhappy situation. Great interest was made to obtain a pardon for them, particularly for Robert, in whose favour seventy-eight bankers and merchants of London signed a petition to the King; the newspapers were filled with paragraphs, evidently written by disinterested persons, in favour of men whom they thought dupes to the designs of an artful woman: but in consequence of the New Act against forgery, mercy was deemed impolicy.

On the day of execution the brothers were favoured with a mourning coach, and it was thought that thirty thousand people attended. They were both dressed in mourning, and behaved with the most Christian resolution. When they quitted the coach and got into the cart, they bowed respectfully to the sheriffs, who waved their hands as a final adieu. After the customary devotions, they crossed their hands, joining the four together, and in this manner were launched into eternity. They had not

hung more than half a minute when their hands dropped asunder, and they appeared to die without pain. Each of them delivered a paper to the Ordinary of Newgate, which declared their innocence, and ascribed the blame of the whole transaction to the artifices of Mrs. Rudd; indeed, many gave credit to their assertions, and a great many thought Robert *wholly* innocent.

They suffered at Tyburn, on the 17th of January, 1776. On the Sunday following the bodies were carried from the house of Robert in Golden-square, and after the usual solemnities, deposited in the vault of St. Martin's church. The coffins were covered with black cloth and nails, and a black plate on each, inscribing their names, the day of their death, and their ages, (42) being twin-brothers. They were carried in separate hearses; their friends attending in mourning coaches. The crowd was so great, that the company could with difficulty get into the church; but at length the ceremony was decently performed, and the mob dispersed.

JERRY AVERSHAW.

LEWIS JEREMIAH AVERSHAW,

MURDERER.

Executed at KENNINGTON COMMON, August 3, 1795.

THE subject of the following particulars was a most depraved character, who had long been the pest of society, and whose unparalleled audacity did not terminate but with his life. On July 30, 1795, he was tried before Mr. Baron Perryn, at Croydon. He was convicted on two indictments: one for having, at the Three Brewers, public-house, Southwark, feloniously shot at and murdered D. Price, an officer belonging the Police-office, held at Union-hall, in the Borough. The other for having, at the same time and place, fired a pistol at Bernard Turner, another officer attached to the office at Union-hall, with an intent to murder him.

Mr. Garrow, the leading counsel for the prosecution, opened his case to the court and jury, by stating, that the prisoner at the bar, being a person of ill fame, had been suspected of having perpetrated a number of felonies. The magistrates of the Police-office, in the Borough of Southwark, having received information against the prisoner, sent, as was their duty, an order for his apprehension. To execute the warrant, the deceased Price, and another officer, went to the Three Brewers, a public-house, where they understood he then was drinking, in company with some other persons. At the entrance of a parlour in the house, the prisoner appeared in a posture of intending to resist. Holding a loaded pistol in each of

his hands, he, with threats and imprecations, desired the officers to stand off, as he would otherwise fire at them. The officers, without being intimidated by those menaces, attempted to rush in and seize him, on which the prisoner discharged both the pistols at the same instant of time, lodging the contents of one in the body of David Price, and with the other wounded Turner very severely in the head. Price, after languishing a few hours, died of the wound.

Mr. Garrow was very pathetic and animated in his description of the several circumstances composing the shocking act of barbarity. To prove it, he would call four witnesses, whose evidence, he said, would be but too clear to establish the prisoner's guilt. The jury would be enabled to judge from the facts to be submitted to them, and would undoubtedly decide on the issue joined between the crown and the prisoner at the bar. The learned counsel accordingly called Turner, the landlord of the house, a surgeon, and a fourth witness; but as the substance of their evidence is comprised in Mr. G's opening of the indictment, it would be superfluous to repeat it. Turner said, positively, he saw the prisoner discharge the pistols, from one of which he himself received his wound, and the contents of the other were lodged in the body of Price, who died very shortly after. The surgeon proved that the death was in consequence of the wound. Mr. Knowles and Mr. Best were counsel for the prisoner, but the weight of evidence against him was too strong to be combated by any exertions. Mr. Baron Perryn summed up the evidence, on every essential part of which his lordship made several apposite, pointed, and accurate observations.

The counsel for the prisoner, he remarked to the jury, had principally rested his defence on the circumstance of several other persons being present when the pistols were discharged, by some of which they contended the death wound might possibly have been inflicted. But, with respect to that part of the transaction, it would be proper

for the jury to observe, that the witness Turner, had sworn positively to his having seen the prisoner in the act of discharging the contents of the pistol. The jury, after a consultation of about three minutes, pronounced the verdict of—guilty. Through a flaw in the indictment for the murder, an objection was taken by counsel. This was argued nearly two hours, when Mr. Baron Perryn intimating a wish to take the opinion of the twelve judges of England, the counsel for the prosecution, waving the point for the present, insisted on the prisoner's being tried on the second indictment, for feloniously shooting at Barnaby Windsor, which the learned counsel said, would occupy no great portion of time, as it could be sufficiently supported by the testimony of a single witness. He was accordingly tried and found guilty on a second capital indictment.

The prisoner, who, contrary to general expectation, had in a great measure hitherto refrained from his usual audacity, began with unparalleled insolence of expression and gesture, to ask his lordship if he "was to be murdered by the evidence of one witness?" several times repeating the question, till the jury returned him—guilty. When Mr. Baron Perryn put on the judicial cap, the prisoner, unconscious, and regardless of his dreadful situation, at the same time put on his hat, observing the judge with contemptuous looks while he was passing the sentence.

When the constables were removing him from the dock to a coach, he continued to vent torrents of abuse against the judge and jury, whom he charged with, as he stiled it, his murder. As his desperate disposition was well known, he was, to prevent resistance, hand-cuffed, and his thighs and arms also bound strongly together, in which situation he was conveyed back to prison. So callous was this ruffian to every degree of feeling, that on his way to be tried, as he was passing near the usual place of execution on Kennington Common, he put his head

out of the coach window, and with all the *sang froid* imaginable, asked some of those who guarded him, if they did not think he would be *twisted* on that pretty spot by Saturday? After receiving sentence of death, he was conducted back to prison, where, having got some black cherries, he amused himself with painting on the white walls of the room in which he was confined, various sketches of robberies which he had committed; one representing him running up to the horses' heads of a post chaise, presenting a pistol at the driver, and the words, "D—n your eyes stop," issuing out of his mouth; another where he was firing into the chaise; a third, where the parties had quitted the carriage, and several others, in which he was described in the act of taking the money from the passengers, being fired at, where his companions were shot dead, &c.

At the place of execution he appeared entirely unconcerned, had a flower in his mouth, his bosom was thrown open, and he kept up an incessant conversation with the persons who rode beside the cart; frequently laughing and nodding to others of his acquaintance whom he perceived in the crowd, which was immense. He suffered August the 3d, 1795, at Kennington-Common, with John Little, who having had an employment at the laboratory of the palace at Kew, became acquainted with Mr. Macevoy and Mrs. King, persons of very advanced years, and who had been many years resident at Kew. Supposing they had some property at home, he watched an opportunity and murdered them both.

WILLIAM NEWINGTON,

FORGER.

Executed at TYBURN, August 26th, 1738,

THIS unhappy young man was a native of Chichester in Sussex, and was the son of reputable parents, who having given him a good education, placed him with Mr. Cave, an attorney of that town, with whom he served his clerkship: and then coming to London, lived as a hackney-writer with Mr. Studley in Nicholas-lane, Lombard-street, for about two years and a half.

But Newington being of a volatile disposition, and much disposed to the keeping company and irregular hours, Mr. Studley discharged him from his service; on which he went to live with Mr. Leaver, a scrivener in Friday-street, with whom he continued between two and three years, and served him with a degree of fidelity that met with the highest approbation.

This service he quitted about a year before he was convicted of the offence which cost him his life; and in the interval he lived in a gay manner, without having any visible means of support, and paid his addresses to a young lady of very handsome fortune, to whom he would soon have been married, if he had not been embarrassed by the commission of the crime which gives rise to this narrative.

It is presumed that being distressed for money to support his expensive way of life, and to carry on his amour, he was tempted to commit forgery, which, by an act of

parliament then recently passed, had been made a capital offence.

He went to Child's coffee-house in St. Paul's Church-yard, where he drew a draft on the house of Child and company, bankers in Fleet-street, in the following words.

"Sir Francis Child and Comp.

Pray pay to Sir Rowland Hill, Bart. or order, the sum of one hundred and twenty pounds, and place it to the account of

Your humble servant,

To Sir Fra. Child, and Comp. Temple-Bar." THOMAS HILL.

The draft he dispatched by a porter, but was so agitated by his fears while he wrote it, that he forgot to put any date to it; otherwise, as Mr. Thomas Hill kept cash with the bankers, and as the forgery was admirably executed, the draft would have been paid: but at the instant that the porter was about to put his indorsement on it, one of the clerks said he might go about his business, for that they did not believe the draft was a good one.

The porter returned to the coffee-house without the draft, which the bankers clerks had refused to deliver him: but on his return he found that the gentleman was gone.

At the expiration of two hours the bankers clerks came to Child's coffee-house, and inquired for the person who had made the draft; but he was not to be found; for, in the absence of the porter, he had inquired for the Faculty-Office in Doctor's-Commons, saying he had some business at that place, and would return in half an hour.

About two or three hours afterwards the porter's son told him that a gentleman wanted him at the Horn and Feathers, in Carter-Lane, where he went, and told New-

ington that the bankers had refused to pay the note: "Very well, (said he) stay here till I go and put on my shoes, and I will go with you, and rectify the mistake."

When the porter had waited near three hours, and his employer did not return, he began to suspect that the draft was forged, and some hours afterwards calling in at the Fountain Alehouse in Cheapside, he saw Newington; on which he went and fetched a constable, who took him into custody, and lodged him in the Compter.

Being tried at the next sessions at the Old-Bailey, he was capitally convicted, notwithstanding nine gentlemen appeared to give him an excellent character: but character has little weight where evidence is positive, and the crime is capital.

When called down to receive sentence of death, he delivered the following address:

"May it please your lordship,

This my most melancholy case was occasioned by the alone inconsiderate rashness of my unexperienced years. The intent of fraud is, without doubt, most strongly and most positively found against me: but I assure your lordship I was not in want; nor did I ever think of such a thing in the whole course of my life, till within a few minutes of the execution of this rash deed. I hope your lordship has some regard for the gentlemen who have so generously appeared in my behalf; and as this is the first fact, though of so deep a dye, my youth and past conduct may, I hope, in some measure move your lordship's pity, compassion, and generous assistance."

After conviction Newington flattered himself that he should escape the utmost ignominy of the law through the intercessions of his friends: but when the warrant for execution, in which his name was included, was brought to Newgate, he appeared to be greatly shocked; but recollecting and composing himself, he said, "God's will

be done!" But immediately bursting into tears, he lamented the misery which his mother would naturally endure when she should be acquainted with the wretched fate of her unfortunate son.

The dreadful tidings being conveyed to his mother, she left Chichester with an aching heart; and it was a week after her arrival in London before she could acquire a sufficient degree of spirits to visit the unfortunate cause of her grief.

At length she repaired to the gloomy mansion; but when she saw her son fettered with chains, it was with the utmost difficulty that she could be kept from fainting. She hung round his neck, while he dropt on his knees, and implored her blessing and forgiveness: and so truly mournful was the spectacle, that even the gaolers, accustomed as they are to scenes of horror, shed tears at the sight.

This malefactor was executed at Tyburn, on the 26th of August, 1738.

THOMAS COLLEY,

MURDERER.

Executed August 24th, 1751.

THIS man was of low birth, without any education, and thus ignorant, became the dupe of prejudice and superstition in the following manner. On the 18th of April, 1751, a man named Nichols went to William Dell, the cryer of Hemel-Hempstead in Hertfordshire, and delivered to him a piece of paper, with fourpence, to cry the words which were written on the paper, a copy of which was as follows: "This is to give notice, that on Monday next, a man and a woman are to be ducked at Tring, in this county, for their wicked crimes." This notice was given at Winslow and Leighton-Buzzard, as well as at Hemel-Hempstead, on the respective market days, and was heard by Mr. Barton, overseer of the parish of Tring, who being informed that the persons intended to be ducked were John Osborne, and Ruth his wife, and having no doubt of the good character of both the parties, he sent them to the workhouse, as a protection from the rage of the mob.

On the day appointed for the practice of the infernal ceremony, an immense number, supposed, to be no fewer than five thousand, assembled near the workhouse at Tring, vowing revenge against Osborne and his wife, as a wizard and a witch, and demanding that they should be delivered up to their fury; they likewise pulled down a wall belonging to the workhouse, and broke the win-

dows and their frames. On the preceding evening, the master of the workhouse, suspecting some violence from what he heard of the disposition of the people, sent Osborne and his wife to the vestry-room belonging to the church, as a place the most likely to secure them from insult. The mob would not give credit to the master of the workhouse that the parties were removed, but rushing into the house, searched it through, examining the closets, boxes, trunks, and *even the salt-box*, in search of them. There being a hole in the ceiling which appeared to have been left by the plaisterers, Colley, who was one of the most active of the gang, cried out, "Let us search the ceiling."

This being done by Charles Young, with as little success as before, they swore they would pull down the house, and set fire to the whole town of Tring, except Osborne and his wife were produced. The master of the workhouse, apprehensive that they would carry their threats into execution, informed them where the poor people were concealed, on which the whole mob, with Colley at their head, went to the church, and brought them off in triumph. This being done, the mob, conducted them to a pond called Marlston-Mere, where the man and woman were separately tied up in a cloth: then a rope was bound round the body of the woman, under her arm-pits, and two men dragged her into the pond, and through it several times; Colley going into the pond, and, with a stick, turning her from side to side.

Having ducked her repeatedly in this manner, they placed her by the side of the pond, and dragged the old man in, and ducked him: then he was put by, and the woman ducked again as before, Colley making the same use of his stick. With this cruelty the husband was treated twice over, and the wife three times; during the last of which, the cloth in which she was wrapped came off, and she appeared quite naked. Not satisfied with this barbarity, Colley pushed his stick against her breast. The poor woman attempted to lay hold of it, but her

strength being now exhausted, she expired on the spot. Colley then went round the pond, and collected money of the populace for the sport he had shown them, in ducking the old witch, as he called her. The mob having been dispersed, the body was taken out of the pond, and examined by Mr. Foster, a surgeon, when the coroner's inquest being summoned on the occasion, Mr. Foster deposed, that "on examining the body he found no wound, either internal or external, except a little place that had the skin off one of her breasts; and it was his opinion, that she was suffocated with water and mud."

Hereupon Colley was taken into custody, and when his trial came on he made the following defence:—"I happened to be so unfortunate as to be at Marlston-green, among other people, out of curiosity, to see what the mob would do with John Osborne and his wife; where, seeing that they used them very barbarously, I went into the pond as a friend, to save her if I could; for I knew both very well, and never had any occasion to fall out with them, but bore them good-will. As for the money I collected by the pond-side, it was for the great pains I had taken in the pond to save both the man and the woman." However, upon the evidence of Mr. Foster, and that of several who witnessed Colley's activity in the mob, he was found guilty, and received sentence of death.—After conviction, he seemed to behold his guilt in its true light of enormity.

On the day before his execution he received the sacrament, and then signed the following solemn declaration, which he requested might be dispersed through the several towns and villages in the country.

"Good People,

"I beseech you all to take warning by an unhappy man's suffering: that you be not deluded into so absurd and wicked a conceit, as to believe that there are any such be-

ings as witches. It was that foolish and vain imagination, heightened and inflamed by the strength of liquor, which prompted me to be instrumental (with others as mad as myself) in the horrid and barbarous murder of Ruth Osborne, the supposed witch, for which, I am now so deservedly to suffer death. I am fully convinced of my former error, and, with the sincerity of a dying man, declare that I do not believe there is such a thing in being as a witch; and pray God that none of you, through a contrary persuasion, may hereafter be induced to think that you have a right in any shape to prosecute, much less endanger the life of a fellow-creature. I beg of you all to pray to God to forgive me, and to wash clean my polluted soul in the blood of Jesus Christ, my Saviour and Redeemer.

"So exhorteth you all, the dying

"THOMAS COLLEY."

The day before his execution, he was removed from the gaol of Hertford, under the escort of a hundred men of the Oxford Blues, commanded by seven officers; and being lodged in the gaol of St Alban's was put into a chaise at five o'clock the next morning, with the hangman, and reached the place of execution about eleven, where his wife and daughter came to take leave of him; and the minister of Tring assisted him in his last moments, when he exhibited all the marks of unfeigned penitence and devout contrition.

He suffered August the 24th, 1751, and was afterwards hung in chains at a place called Gubblecut, near where the offence was committed.

JOHN M'NAUGHTON, ESQ.

MURDERER.

Executed near STRABANE, December 15th, 1761.

THIS malefactor was a native of Londonderry in Ireland, his father being a merchant of that place, and his grandfather an alderman of Dublin. Young M'Naughton gave early proofs of his being influenced by the most ungovernable passions.

After the foundation of his education was laid at the grammar school of Londonderry, he was sent to Trinity college, Dublin, to compleat it; and, on his coming of age, took possession of an estate of six hundred a year, which an uncle had bequeathed him.

Such a fortune, in the North of Ireland, might have enabled him to live in a style of elegant independance; but an unhappy propensity to gaming so reduced him that he was necessitated to mortgage his estate.

At this period he married a young lady, and, taking an elegant house in Dublin, lived in a style much above his circumstances. The consequence of this extravagance was, that he became much involved in debt, and a principal creditor took out an action against him for a considerable sum. M'Naughton, unable to pay the debt, secreted himself from the bailiffs: but at length the creditor persuaded the sheriff to serve the writ himself.

The sheriff going in a chair to M'Naughton's house, found him in the parlour with his wife, and told him he was a prisoner. The lady being pregnant, this declara-

tion had such an effect on her, that she was immediately seized with the pains of child-birth, and being delivered of a dead child, died herself at the expiration of a few days.

M'Naughton, however, drove the sheriff from his house, and as soon as he had given orders respecting his wife's funeral, retired into the country, where, for some time, he abandoned himself to the most disagreeable reflections: but the frugal way in which he lived so retrieved his circumstances, that he was once more enabled to appear in Dublin in his usual style of elegance.

Soon after this, the lord lieutenant granted him the post of collector of the revenues for the county of Coleraine: but it was not long before some of the public money was squandered by gaming; and, when he found himself unable to make up the deficieney, his wife's relations paid it for him, to prevent the legal consequences that must otherwise have taken place.

We must now take notice of the unhappy event that gave rise to this narrative. M'Naughton, some years after the death of his wife, contracted an acquaintance with Mr. Knox, a man of large fortune in the county of Derry. Miss Knox was entitled to 5000l. when she came of age, in consequence of her father's marriage-settlement: she was a young lady of great beauty and accomplishments; so that it is no wonder if her charms made an impression on the heart of M'Naughton, who was a frequent visitor at her father's house.

He paid his addresses to the young lady, and she promised to accept him as a husband, if her father's consent could be obtained. Hereupon M'Naughton applied to the old gentleman, who not only refused his acquiescence, but forbade the other to visit the family in future.

Hereupon M'Naughton desired that he might not be forbade the house, as it might cause very unfavourable suspicions in the neighbourhood. Mr. Knox consented that he should continue his visits: but no sooner was this favour granted, than he courted Miss Knox with as much

ardour as formerly, and obtained her consent to marry him at the expiration of two years, as she was at that time too young for a wife.

Soon afterwards, M'Naughton being with her, when a little boy only was present, he pulled out a book of Common Prayer, and read the ceremony of marriage, desiring that she would make the responses. This she did; but added to each of them "if my father will consent."

This transaction had not long passed, when Mr. M'Naughton meeting Miss Knox at the house of a Neighbour he insisted that she was his wife; which she denied; and on her return home acquainted her father with what had passed; on which the old gentleman wrote to M'Naughton, insisting that he should decline all future visits, and upbraided him with his past ill-behaviour.

M'Naughton had no sooner received Mr. Knox's letter, than he inserted an advertisement in the news-papers, declaring that the young lady was his wife; to which Mr. Knox inserted an answer, and then entered a process in the spiritual court, which set aside the pretended marriage, and decreed, that if M'Naughton thought himself injured, he must appeal to the common law for damages.

On this M'Naughton applied to the court of Delegates; but the judge issued a warrant for apprehending him, which irritated him to such a degree, that he sent a letter to the judge, threatening that he would murder him when he came the circuit. This letter occasioned the issuing a king's bench warrant against him: so that, finding himself unsafe in Ireland, he came to London.

The obtaining possession of Miss Knox was yet the object of his wishes; wherefore he returned to Ireland, disguised himself, and continued in the neighbourhood of the young lady's father. But no steps were taken by the family to preserve themselves from the danger with which his appearance seemed to threaten them, other than having occasionally in their company a smith whose wife had nursed the young lady, and who was remarkably faithful to the interests of the family.

Mr. Knox was riding in his coach with his daughter, in the beginning of November, 1761, and attended by the smith above mentioned; when M'Naughton and three others approached, two of whom presented their pistols to the postillion, and ordered him to stop.

M'Naughton, seeing the smith, fired a blunderbuss at him, but the shot did not take place; yet one of the companions immediately fired a pistol, which wounded the smith in the arm, and disabled him from firing his gun, which he was preparing to do. Hereupon M'Naughton, and one of his accomplices, fired their pistols at the carriage, the windows of which being instantly drawn up, M'Naughton immediately rode to the other side of it, and discharged a piece, which contained five balls, all of which took place in Miss Knox's body.

A maid-servant now let down the window-blind, and exclaiming that her young lady was murdered, a footman of Mr. Knox's, who had concealed himself behind a stack of turf, fired a pistol at M'Naughton: at the same instant another pistol was fired from the coach by Mr. Knox. M'Naughton, though wounded in the back, rode off; but on the following day he was apprehended, by a party of light-horse, and lodged in Lifford gaol.

The young lady was carried to an adjacent cottage, where she died about three hours after she received the wound. The lord lieutenant of Ireland immediately offered a reward of five hundred pounds, to be paid on the apprehension of M'Naughton's accomplices, who were soon taken into custody, and one of them was admitted an evidence.

A special commission being issued, two judges went to Lifford, to try the delinquents, on the 8th of December: but M'Naughton's counsel urged so many objections, that the trial was postponed for three days, when it continued from eight in the morning till eleven at night, the judges not once quitting the court while the matter was depending.

M'Naughton, being ill of his wounds, was carried into court wrapped in a blanket; yet he cross-examined the witnesses in such a manner as fully proved the strength of his mind.

One of his accomplices having been admitted an evidence, and one of the others being acquitted, M'Naughton, and another named Dunlap, were capitally convicted, and received sentence of death.

M'Naughton earnestly begged that mercy might be extended to his accomplice, declaring that he had acted under his directions: but this plea could have no weight, for reasons that will appear obvious to every reader; for the man who consents to an act which ends in murder, is deemed a murderer in the eye of the law.

When the day of execution arrived, M'Naughton, who was still very weak, walked to the fatal spot with the help of two men who supported him. His dress was singular, consisting of a night-cap tied with a black ribbon, white stockings, black buckles, a flannel waistcoat trimmed with black, and having black buttons, and a crape round the arm.

M'Naughton desired the hangman to do his duty speedily; and the man pointing to the ladder, the other instantly ascended it; and no sooner was the rope about his neck, than he jumped off with such force that it broke; and he might have escaped, if he had possessed strength and recollection; for the crowd, from a momentary impulse of humanity, made a passage, as if they wished to screen him from the rigour of the law.

M'Naughton, being taken up, was re-conducted to the gallows, when the executioner took Dunlap's rope, and fixing it round M'Naughton's neck, he ascended the ladder, tied the rope to the gallows, jumped, off, and expired almost immediately.

Dunlap remained a miserable spectator of this scene, and was hanged after M'Naughton was cut down.

These malefactors suffered near Strabane, on the 15th of December, 1761.

RICHARD TURPIN,

HORSE-STEALER.

Executed at York, April 10th, 1739.

THE transactions of this malefactor made a greater noise in the world at the time they happened than those of almost any other offender whose life we have recorded: and we shall therefore be the more particular in our account of him.

He was the son of John Turpin, a farmer at Hempstead, in Essex, and having received a common school education, was apprenticed to a butcher in Whitechapel; but was distinguished from his early youth for the impropriety of his behaviour, and the brutality of his manners.

On the expiration of his apprenticeship, he married a young woman of East Ham, in Essex, named Palmer: but he had not been long married before he took to the practice of stealing his neighbours cattle, which he used to kill and cut up for sale.

Having stolen two oxen belonging to Mr. Giles of Plaistow, he drove them to his own house; but two of Giles's servants suspecting who was the robber, went to Turpin's, where they saw two beasts of such a size as had been lost; but as the hides were stripped from them, it was impossible to say that they were the same: but learning that Turpin used to dispose of his hides at Waltham-Abbey, they went thither, and saw the hides of the individual beasts that had been stolen.

No doubt now remaining who was the robber, a warrant was procured for the apprehension of Turpin; but learning that the peace-officers were in search of him, he made his escape from the back-window of his house, at the very moment that the others were entering at the door.

Having retreated to a place of security, he found means to inform his wife where he was concealed; on which she furnished him with money, with which he travelled into the hundreds of Essex, where he joined a gang of smugglers, with whom he was for some time successful; till a set of the Custom-house officers, by one successful stroke, deprived him of all his ill-acquired gains.

Thrown out of this kind of business, he connected himself with a gang of deer-stealers, the principal part of whose depredations were committed on Epping-Forest, and the parks in its neighbourhood: but this business not succeeding to the expectation of the robbers, they determined to commence house-breakers.

Their plan was to fix on houses that they presumed contained any valuable property: and while one of them knocked at the door, the others were to rush in, and seize whatever they might deem worthy of their notice.

Their first attack of this kind was at the house of Mr. Strype, an old man who kept a chandler's shop at Watford, whom they robbed of all the money in his possession, but did not offer him any personal abuse.

Turpin now acquainted his associates that there was an old woman at Loughton, who was in possession of seven or eight hundred pounds; whereupon they agreed to rob her; and when they came to the door, one of them knocked, and the rest forcing their way into the house, tied handkerchiefs over the eyes of the old woman and her maid.

This being done, Turpin demanded what money was in the house; and the owner hesitating to tell him, he threatened to set her on the fire if she did not make an

immediate discovery. Still, however, she declined to give the desired information; on which the villains actually placed her on the fire, where she sat till the tormenting pains compelled her to discover her hidden treasure; so that the robbers possessed themselves of above four hundred pounds, and decamped with the booty.

Some little time after this they agreed to rob the house of a farmer near Barking; and knocking at the door, the people declined to open it; on which they broke it open; and having bound the farmer, his wife, his son-in-law, and the servant-maid, they robbed the house of above seven hundred pounds; which delighted Turpin so much, that he exclaimed, "Aye, this will do, if it would always be so!" and the robbers retired with their prize, which amounted to above eighty pounds for each of them.

This desperate gang, now flushed with success, determined to attack the house of Mr. Mason, the keeper of Epping-Forest; and the time was fixed when the plan was to be carried into execution: but Turpin having gone to London, to spend his share of the former booty, intoxicated himself to such a degree, that he totally forgot the appointment.

Nevertheless, the rest of the gang resolved that the absence of their companion should not frustrate the proposed design; and having taken a solemn oath to break every article of furniture in Mason's house, they set out on their expedition.

Having gained admission, they beat and kicked the unhappy man with great severity. Finding an old man sitting by the fire-side, they permitted him to remain uninjured; and Mr. Mason's daughter escaped their fury, by running out of the house, and taking shelter in a hog-sty. After ransacking the lower part of the house, and doing much mischief, they went up stairs, where they broke every thing that fell in their way, and among the rest a China punch-bowl, from which dropped one hundred and twenty guineas, which they made prey of, and effected their escape. They now went to London in search of

Turpin, with whom they shared the booty, though he had not taken an active part in the execution of the villainy.

On the 11th of January, 1735, Turpin and five of his companions went to the house of Mr. Saunders, a rich farmer at Charlton, in Kent, between seven and eight in the evening, and having knocked at the door, asked if Mr. Saunders was at home. Being answered in the affirmative, they rushed into the house, and found Mr. Saunders, with his wife and friends, playing at cards in the parlour. They told the company that they should remain uninjured if they made no disturbance. Having made prize of a silver snuff-box which lay on the table, a part of the gang stood guard over the rest of the company, while the others, attended Mr. Saunders through the house, and breaking open his escritoirs and closets, stole above a hundred pounds, exclusive of plate.

During these transactions the servant-maid ran up stairs, barred the door of her room, and called out "Thieves," with a view of alarming the neighbourhood: but the robbers broke open the door of her room, secured her, and then robbed the house of all the valuable property they had not before taken. Finding some mince-pies, and some bottles of wine, they sat down to regale themselves; and meeting with a bottle of brandy, they compelled each of the company to drink a glass of it.

Mrs. Saunders fainting through terror, they administered some drops in water to her, and recovered her to the use of her senses. Having staid in the house a considerable time, they packed up their booty and departed, having first declared that if any of the family gave the least alarm within two hours, or advertised the marks of the stolen plate, they would return and murder them at a future time.

Retiring to a public-house at Woolwich, where they had concerted the robbery, they crossed the Thames to an empty house in Ratcliffe-Highway, where they deposited the stolen effects till they found a purchaser for them.

The division of the plunder having taken place, they, on the 18th of the same month, went to the house of Mr. Sheldon, near Croydon, in Surrey, where they arrived about seven in the evening. Having got into the yard, they perceived a light in the stable, and going into it, found the coachman attending his horses. Having immediately bound him, they quitted the stable, and meeting Mr. Sheldon in the yard, they seized him, and compelling him to conduct them into the house, they stole eleven guineas, with the jewels, plate, and other things of value, to a large amount. Having committed this robbery, they returned Mr. Sheldon two guineas, and apologized for their conduct.

This being done, they hastened to the Black-Horse in the Broad-way, Westminster, where they concerted the robbery of Mr. Lawrence of Edgware, near Stanmore in Mlddlesex, for which place they set out on the 4th of February, and arrived at a public-house in that village about five o'clock in the evening. From this place they went to Mr. Lawrence's house, where they arrived about seven o'clock, just as he had discharged some people who had worked for him.

Having quitted their horses at the outer-gate, one of the robbers going forwards, found a boy who had just returned from folding his sheep: the rest of the gang following, a pistol was presented, and instant destruction threatened if he made any noise. They then took off his garters, and tied his hands, and told him to direct them to the door, and, when they knocked, to answer, and bid the servants open it, in which case they would not hurt him: but when the boy came to the door he was so terrified that he could not speak; on which one of the gang knocked, and a man-servant, imagining it was one of the neighbours, opened the door, whereupon they all rushed in, armed with pistols.

Having seized Mr. Lawrence and his servant, they threw a cloth over their faces, and taking the boy into another room, demanded what fire-arms were in the house; to

which he replied only an old gun, which they broke in pieces. They then bound Mr. Lawrence and his man, and made them sit by the boy; and Turpin searching the gentleman, took from him a guinea, a Portugal piece, and some silver: but not being satisfied with this booty, they forced him to conduct them up stairs, where they broke open a closet, and stole some money and plate: but that not being sufficient to satisfy them, they threatened to murder Mr. Lawrence, each of them destining him to a different death, as the savageness of his own nature prompted him. At length one of them took a kettle of water from the fire, and threw it over him; but it providentially happened not to be hot enough to scald him.

In the interim the maid-servant, who was churning butter in the dairy, hearing a noise in the house, apprehended some mischief; on which she blew out her candle, to screen herself: but being found in the course of their search, one of the miscreants compelled her to go up stairs, where he gratified his brutal passion by force. They then robbed the house of all the valuable effects they could find, locked the family into the parlour, threw the key into the garden, and took their ill-gotten plunder to London.

The particulars of this atrocious robbery being represented to the king, a proclamation was issued for the apprehension of the offenders, promising a pardon to any one of them who would impeach his accomplices; and a reward of fifty pounds was offered, to be paid on conviction. This, however, had no effect; the robbers continued their depredations as before; and flushed with the success they had met with, seemed to bid defiance to the laws.

On the 7th of February, six of them assembled at the White-Bear-Inn, in Drury-Lane, where they agreed to rob the house of Mr. Francis, a farmer, near Marybone. Arriving at the place, they found a servant in the cow-house, whom they bound fast, and threatened to murder

him if he was not perfectly silent. This being done, they led him into the stable, where finding another of the servants, they bound him in the same manner.

In the interim Mr. Francis happening to come home, they presented their pistols to his breast, and threatened instant destruction to him, if he made the least noise or opposition.

Having bound the master in the stable with his servants, they rushed into the house, tied Mrs. Francis, her daughter, and the maid-servant, and beat them in a most cruel manner. One of the thieves stood as a centry while the rest rifled the house, in which they found a silver tankard, a medal of Charles the First, a gold watch, several gold rings, a considerable sum of money, and a variety of valuable linen and other effects, which they conveyed to London.

Hereupon a reward of an hundred pounds was offered for the apprehension of the offenders; in consequence of which two of them were taken into custody, tried, convicted on the evidence of an accomplice, and hanged in chains: and the whole gang being dispersed, Turpin went into the country, to renew his depredations on the public.

On a journey towards Cambridge he met a man genteelly dressed, and well mounted; and expecting a good booty, he presented a pistol to the supposed gentleman, and demanded his money. The party thus stopped happened to be one King, a famous highwayman, who knew Turpin; and when the latter threatened instant destruction if he did not deliver his money, King burst into a fit of laughter, and said, "What dog cat dog?—Come, come, brother Turpin; if you don't know me, I know you, and shall be glad of your company."

These brethren in iniquity soon struck the bargain, and immediately entering on business, committed a number of robberies; till at length they were so well known that no public-house would receive them as guests. Thus situated, they fixed on a spot between the King's-Oak and the

Loughton Road, on Epping-Forest, where they made a cave which was large enough to receive them and their horses

This cave was enclosed within a sort of thicket of bushes and brambles, through which they could look and see passengers on the road, while themselves remained unobserved.

From this station they used to issue, and robbed such a number of persons, that at length the very pedlars who travelled the road carried fire-arms for their defence: and while they were in this retreat Turpin's wife used to supply them with necessaries, and frequently remained in the cave during the night.

Having taken a ride as far as Bungay, in Suffolk, they observed two young women receive fourteen pounds for corn, on which Turpin resolved to rob them of the money. King objected, saying it was a pity to rob such pretty girls: but Turpin was obstinate, and obtained the booty.

Upon their return home on the following day, they stopped a Mr. Bradele, of London, who was riding in his chariot with his children. The gentleman, seeing only one robber, was preparing to make resistance, when King called to Turpin to hold the horses. They took from the gentleman his watch, money, and an old mourning ring: but returned the latter, as he declared that its intrinsic value was trifling, yet he was very unwilling to part from it.

Finding that they readily parted with the ring, he asked them what he must give for the watch: on which, King said to Turpin, "What say ye Jack*?—Here seems to be a good honest fellow; shall we let him have the watch?"—Turpin replied, "Do as you please:" on which King said to the gentleman, "You must pay six guineas for it: We never sell for more, though the watch

* King always called Turpin by the name of Jack.

should be worth six and thirty." The gentleman promised that the money should be left at the Dial, in Birchin-Lane, where they might receive it, and no questions would be asked. †

Not long after this, Turpin was guilty of murder, which arose from the following circumstance. A reward of an hundred pounds having been offered for apprehending him, the servant of a gentleman named Thompson, went out with a higler, to try if they could take this notorious offender,. Turpin seeing them approach near his dwelling, Mr. Thompson's man having a gun, he mistook them for poachers; on which he said there were no hares near that thicket: "No (said Thompson's servant) but I have found a Turpin;" and presenting his gun, requested him to surrender.

Hereupon Turpin spoke to him, as in a friendly manner, and gradually retreated at the same time, till having seized his own gun, he shot him dead on the spot, and the higler ran off with the utmost precipitation.

This transaction making a great noise in the neighbourhood, Turpin went farther into the country in search of his old companion, King; and in the mean time sent a letter to his wife, to meet him at a public-house at Hertford. The woman attended according to this direction; and her husband coming into the house soon after she arrived, a butcher to whom he owed five pounds happened to see him; on which he said, "Come, Dick, I know you have money now; and if you will pay me it will be of great service."

Turpin told him that his wife was in the next room; that she had money, and that he should be paid immediately: but while the butcher was hinting to some of his

† It was formerly a common practice, to advertise that, if stolen goods were left at a particular place mentioned in the advertisement, a certain reward would be paid, and *no questions asked*; but this has been happily abolished by the better policy of modern times.

acquaintance, that the person present was Turpin, and that they might take him into custody after he had received his debt, the highwayman made his escape through a window, and rode off with great expedition.

Turpin having found King, and a man named Potter, who had lately connected himself with them, they set off towards London in the dusk of the evening; but when they came near the Green Man on Epping-Forest, they overtook a Mr. Major, who riding on a very fine horse, and Turpin's beast being jaded, he obliged the rider to dismount, and exchange horses.

The robbers now pursued their journey towards London, and Mr. Major going to the Green Man, gave an account of the affair: on which it was conjectured that Turpin had been the robber, and that the horse which he had exchanged must have been stolen.

It was on a Saturday evening that this robbery was committed; but Mr. Major being advised to print hand-bills immediately, notice was given to the landlord of the Green Man, that such a horse as Mr. Major had lost, had been left at the Red-Lion in Whitechapel. The landlord going thither, determined to wait till some person came for it; and, at about eleven at night, King's brother came to pay for the horse and take him away; on which he was immediately seized, and conducted into the house.

Being asked what right he had to the horse, he said he had bought it: but the landlord examining a whip which he had in his hand, found a button at the end of the handle half broken off, and the name of Major on the remaining half. Hereupon he was given into custody of a constable: but as it was not supposed that he was the actual robber, he was told that he should have his liberty, if he would discover his employer.

Hereupon he said that a stout man, in a white duffil coat, was waiting for the horse in Red-Lion-Street; on which the company going thither, saw King, who drew a pistol, and attempted to fire it, but it flashed in the pan:

he then endeavoured to pull out another pistol, but he could not, as it got entangled in his pocket.

At this time Turpin was watching at a small distance: and riding towards the spot, King cried out "Shoot him, or we are taken:" on which Turpin fired, and shot his companion, who called out "Dick, you have killed me;" which the other hearing, rode off at full speed.

King lived a week after this affair, and gave information that Turpin might be found at a house near Hackney-Marsh; and on inquiry it was discovered that Turpin had been there on the might that he rode off, lamenting that he had killed King, who was the most faithful associate he had ever had in his life.

For a considerable time did Turpin skulk about the forest, having been deprived of his retreat in the cave since he shot the servant of Mr. Thompson. On the examination of this cave there were found two shirts, two pair of stockings, a piece of ham, and part of a bottle of wine.

Some vain attempts were made to take this notorious offender into custody; and among the rest the huntsman of a gentleman in the neighbourhood went in search of him with bloodhounds. Turpin preceiving them, got into a tree, under which the hounds passed, to his inexpressible terror, so that he determined to make a retreat into Yorkshire.

Going first to Long-Sutton in Lincolnshire, he stole some horses; for which he was taken into custody; but he escaped from the constable as he was conducting him before a magistrate, and hastened to Welton in Yorkshire, where he went by the name of John Palmer, and assumed the character of a gentleman.

He now frequently went into Lincolnshire, where he stole horses, which he brought into Yorkshire, and either sold or exchanged them.

He often accompanied the neighbouring gentlemen on their parties of hunting and shooting; and one evening, on a return from an expedition of the latter kind, he wantonly shot a cock belonging to his landlord. On this Mr

Hall, a neighbour, said, "You have done wrong in shooting your landlord's cock;" to which Turpin replied, that if he would stay while he loaded his gun he would shoot him also.

Irritated by this insult, Mr. Hall informed the landlord of what had passed; and application being made to some magistrates, a warrant was granted for the apprehension of the offender, who being taken into custody, and carried before a bench of justices, then assembled at the quarter sessions at Beverley, they demanded security for his good behaviour, which he being unable or unwilling to give, was committed to Bridewell.

On inquiry it appeared that he made frequent journeys into Lincolnshire, and on his return he always abounded in money, and was likewise in possession of several horses; so that it was conjectured that he was a horse-stealer and highwayman.

On this the magistrates went to him on the following day, and demanded who he was, where he had lived, and what was his employment. He replied in substance, "that about two years ago he had lived at Long-Sutton, in Lincolnshire, and was by trade a butcher; but that having contracted several debts for sheep that proved rotten, he was obliged to abscond, and come to live in Yorkshire."

The magistrates not being satisfied with this tale, commissioned the clerk of the peace to write into Lincolnshire, to make the necessary inquiries respecting the supposed John Palmer. The letter was carried by a special messenger, who brought an answer from a magistrate in the neighbourhood, importing that John Palmer was well known, though he had never carried on trade there; that he had been accused of sheep-stealing, for which he had been in custody, but had made his escape from the peace-officers; and that there were several informations lodged against him for horse-stealing.

Hereupon the magistrates thought it prudent to remove him to York Castle, where he had not been more than a

month, when two persons from Lincolnshire came and claimed a mare and foal, and likewise a horse, which he had stolen in that county.

After he had been about four months in prison, he wrote the following letter to his brother in Essex:

"Dear Brother, York, Feb. 6, 1739.

I am sorry to acquaint you, that I am now under confinement in York Castle, for horse stealing. If I could procure an evidence from London to give me a character, that would go a great way towards my being acquitted. I had not been long in this country before my being apprehended, so that it would pass off the readier. For Heaven's sake, dear brother, do not neglect me; you well know what I mean, when I say———

I am Yours,

JOHN PALMER.

This letter being returned, unopened, to the Post-Office in Essex, because the brother would not pay the postage of it, was accidentally seen by Mr. Smith, a schoolmaster, who having taught Turpin to write, immediately knew his hand, on which he carried the letter to a magistrate, who broke it open; by which it was discovered, that the supposed John Palmer, was the real Richard Turpin.

Hereupon the magistrates of Essex dispatched Mr. Smith to York, who immediately selected him from all the other prisoners in the castle. This Mr. Smith and another gentleman afterwards proved his identity on his trial.

On the rumour that the noted Turpin was a prisoner in York Castle, persons flocked from all parts of the country to take a view of him, and debates ran very high whether he was the real person or not. Among others who visited him was a young fellow who pretended to know the famous Turpin, and having regarded him a considerable time with looks of great attention, he told the keeper

he would bet him half a guinea that he was not Turpin; on which the prisoner, whispering the keeper, said "Lay him the wager, and I'll go your halves."

When this notorious malefactor was brought to trial he was convicted on two indictments, and received sentence of death.

After conviction he wrote to his father, imploring him to intercede with a gentleman and lady of rank, to make interest that his sentence might be remitted; and that he might be transported. The father did what was in his power; but the notoriety of his character was such, that no persons would exert themselves in his favour.

This man lived in the most gay and thoughtless manner after conviction, regardless of all considerations of futurity, and affecting to make a jest of the dreadful fate that awaited him.

Not many days before his execution, he purchased a new fustian frock and a pair of pumps, in order to wear them at the time of his death: and, on the day before, he hired five poor men, at ten shillings each, to follow the cart as mourners; and he gave hatbands and gloves to several other persons: and he also left a ring, and some other articles, to a married woman in Lincolnshire, with whom he had been acquainted.

On the morning of his death he was put into a cart, and being followed by his mourners, as above-mentioned, he was drawn to the place of execution, in his way to which, he bowed to the spectators with an air of the most astonishing indifference and intrepidity.

When he came to the fatal tree, he ascended the ladder; when his right leg trembling, he stamped it down with an air of assumed courage, as if ashamed to be observed to discover any signs of fear. Having conversed with the executioner about half an hour, he threw himself off the ladder, and expired in a few moments. He suffered at York, on the tenth of April, 1739.

The spectators of the execution seemed to be much affected with the fate of this man, who was distinguished by the comliness of his appearance. The corps was brought to the Blue-Boar, in Castle-Gate, York, where it remained till the next morning, when it was interred in the Church-yard of St. George's parish, with an inscription on the coffin, with the initials of his name, and his age. The grave was made remarkably deep, and the people who acted as mourners took such measures as they thought would secure the body; yet about three o'clock on the following morning, some people were observed in the church-yard, who carried it off; and the populace having an intimation whither it was conveyed, found it in a garden belonging to one of the surgeons of the city.

Hereupon they took the body, laid it on a board, and having carried it through the streets, in a kind of triumphal manner, and then filled the coffin with unslaked lime, buried it in the grave where it had been before deposited.

JOHN INNES,

FORGER.

Executed before the DEBTORS'-DOOR, Newgate,
July 11th, 1794.

THE subject of the following narrative, was born at Glasgow, in Scotland, and was the son of a respectable merchant at that place, who gave him a good education, by which he profited little, but as it enabled him with greater art and cunning to impose upon others. In the earlier part of his life he followed the sea; the instability of his mind not suffering him to pursue any settled employ, till his return, when he married an amiable young woman, by whom he had seven children.

During the period of his marriage state, he was sober, steady, and diligent; but on the death of his wife, his rambling disposition returned: he soon spent, in extravagance and dissipation, a decent fortune he had accumulated by trade, and was necessitated to follow some other pursuit. The connexion of his family, the good character he had once borne, and his abilities together, soon procured him a situation as a steward of a nobleman's estate. In this station, his mind took a different turn, he became griping and avaricious in the extreme; his conduct was vexatious and oppressive to the tenants, continually involving them in law-suits, and other difficulties, and then extorting money from them, by way of compromising the disputes.

In this situation, he remained till the death of the nobleman, when the estate was sold; he then turned money-

lender, and practised as a pettifogging attorney, by which unlawful practice he acquired immense wealth; but his covetous disposition not yet being satisfied, he determined upon forging a will, purporting it to be the last will of Anthony Bowman, deceased, with an intent to defraud Sir Charles Morgan, Bart, and Thomas Wright, Esq. The prisoner brought an action, in the Court of King's Bench, against the prosecutors, to recover money in virtue of the will; but the first witness he called to prove the will, said, that he was nephew to Innes, and at the request of his uncle, came to swear to a falsity, for that he knew the will to be a forgery.

His trial came on, February 21st, 1794, when his guilt appearing evident, the Jury, without hesitation, brought in their verdict—Guilty. During his confinement in Newgate, and till the day before his death, he protested his innocence in the most solemn manner, though nothing could be clearer than his guilt; but when he found all would not save him, and he came to the place of execution, he addressed the spectators in the following words.

"Good People,

You see me the victim of early prodigality and late covetousness. In my youth I stuck at nothing to indulge my passion; when advanced in years, nothing would satisfy my thirst for riches; and I now justly meet the punishment due to my abominable extortions and wickedness. I have hitherto denied my guilt, but now I wish to atone for it in some degree by acknowledging it before God and man. May every one take warning by my example."

He suffered before the debtors' door, Newgate, at the Old-Bailey, July 11th, 1794.

MARY EDMONDSON,

MURDERER.

Executed at KENNINGTON COMMON, April 2d, 1759.

THIS woman, was the daughter of a farmer near Leeds, in Yorkshire, and sent to reside with her aunt, Mrs. Walker, of Rotherhithe, who was a widow lady, and with whom she lived two years, comporting herself in the most decent manner, and regularly attending the duties of religion.

A lady named Toucher, having spent the evening with Mrs. Walker, Mary Edmondson lighted her across the street on her way home; and soon after her return, a woman who cried oysters through the street observed that the door was open, and heard the girl cry out,—"help! murder! they have killed my aunt!" Edmondson now ran to the house of Mrs. Odell, wringing her hands, and bewailing the misfortune; and the neighbours being by this time alarmed, some gentlemen went from a public-house where they had spent the evening, in order to inquire into the affair. They found Mrs. Walker, with her throat cut, lying on her right side, and her head near a table, which was covered with linen. One of the gentlemen, named Holloway, said, "this is very strange—I know not what to make of it—let us examine the girl."

Her account of the matter was, that four men had entered at the back door, one of whom putting his arms round her aunt's neck, another, who was a tall man dres-

sed in black, swore that he would kill her if she spoke a single word. Mr. Holloway, observing the girl's arm was cut, asked her how it happened; to which she replied, that one of the men, in attempting to get out, had jammed it with the door: but Holloway judging, from all appearances, that no men had been in the house, said he did not believe her, but supposed she was the murderer of her aunt. On this she fell into a fit, and being removed to a neighbour's house, was blooded by a surgeon, and continued there till the following day, when the coroner's inquest sat on the body, and brought in a verdict of wilful murder—whereupon she was committed to prison. Mrs. Walker's executors, anxious to discover the truth, caused the house to be diligently searched, and found that a variety of things, which Mary Edmondson had said were stolen, were not missing; nor could they discover that any thing was lost. Mrs. Walker's watch, and some other articles, which she said had been carried off by the murderers, were found under the floor of the privy.

Being committed to the new gaol, Southwark, she remained there till the next assizes for Surrey, when she was tried at Kingston, and convicted on evidence which, though acknowledged to be circumstantial, was such as, in the general opinion, admitted little doubt of her guilt. She made a defence indeed, but not sufficiently probable to have any weight.

Being condemned on Saturday, to be executed on the Monday following, she was lodged in the prison at Kingston, whence she wrote to her parents, most solemnly avowing her innocence. She likewise begged that the minister of the parish would preach a sermon on the occasion of her death. She asserted her innocence on the Sunday; when she was visited by a clergyman, and several other people; yet was her behaviour devout, and apparently sincere.

Being taken out of prison on the Monday morning, she got into a post-chaise with the keeper, and arriving at the Peacock, in Kennington-lane, about nine o'clock,

there drank a glass of wine, and then, being put into a cart, was conveyed to the place of execution, where she behaved devoutly, and made the following address to the surrounding multitude.

"It is now too late to trifle either with God or man. I solemnly declare that I am innocent of the crime laid to my charge. I am very easy in my mind, as I suffer with as much pleasure as if I was going to sleep. I freely forgive my prosecutors, and earnestly beg your prayers for my departing soul."

She suffered on Kennington Common, April 2, 1759. Her body was conveyed to St. Thomas's hospital, Southwark, and there dissected.

BENJAMIN TAPNER, JOHN COBBY, JOHN HAMMOND, WILLIAM JACKSON, WILLIAM CARTER, RICHARD MILLS, SEN. AND RICHARD MILLS, JUN.

MURDERERS.

Executed at CHICHESTER, January 18th, 1749.

THE crime for which these men suffered was of so horrid and unprovoked a nature, that the nobility and gentry of Sussex requested his majesty that a special commission for their trials might be issued; and in consequence hereof such special commission was appointed to be held at Chichester on the 16th of January, 1749,

when these men were indicted for the murder of Daniel Chater; the three first as principals, and the others as accessaries before the fact: and William Jackson and William Carter were indicted for the murder of William Galley.

Before we proceed to give an account of the conviction, we shall relate what we know of the parties themselves, and of the circumstances that led to the commission of the enormous crime for which they suffered.

Benjamin Tapner was a native of Aldington in Sussex, and worked for some time as a Bricklayer; but, being of an idle disposition, he soon quitted his business, and associated with a gang of smugglers, who had rendered themselves formidable to the neighbourhood by their lawless depredations.

John Cobby was an illiterate country fellow, the son of James Cobby, of the county of Sussex, labourer, and joined the smugglers a little time before he was thirty years of age.

John Hammond was a labouring man, born at Berstead, in Sussex; and had been a smuggler some time before he was apprehended for the above mentioned murders, which was when he was almost forty years old.

William Jackson was a native of Hampshire, and had a wife and large family. He was brought up to the business of husbandry; but the hope of acquiring more money in an easier way induced him to engage with the smugglers, which, at length, ended in his ruin.

William Carter, of Rowland's Castle in Hampshire, was the son of William Carter, of Eastmean, in the same county, thatcher. He was about the age of thirty-nine; and had practised smuggling a considerable time before the perpetration of the fact which led to his destruction.

Richard Mills, the elder, was a native of Trotton, in Sussex, and had been a horse-dealer by profession; but it is said that a failure in that business induced him to commence smuggler, and he had been long enough in that illicit practice to become one of the most hardened of the gang.

Richard Mills, the younger, lived at Stedham, in Sussex, and for some time followed his father's profession of horse dealing; but, unfortunately, making a connexion with the smugglers, he came to the same ignominious end as his companions, in the thirty-seventh year of his age.

It will be now proper to remark, that, in the year 1747, a most abandoned gang of villains having broken open the Custom-house at Poole, and carried off effects to a considerable amount; the King's proclamation was issued, offering a reward for the apprehension of the offenders.

In consequence of this proclamation, a man named Dimar was taken up on suspicion, and lodged in Chichester gaol; and the commissioners of the customs being made acquainted with this circumstance, they wrote to the collector of the customs at Southampton, hinting that as Dimar was born in that town, it might be proper to send some person to Chichester who knew the prisoner, that his person might be identified on the trial.

The collector recollecting that Daniel Chater was acquainted with Dimar, and had heard him mention something respecting the breaking open the Custom-house at Poole, he dispatched Chater, in company with William Galley, an officer of the customs, that they might be examined by the surveyor at Chichester.

On the 14th of February, 1748, Chater and Galley set out in company, and having rode to Leigh, in Hampshire, inquired their way to Eastmardon, in Sussex, at a public-house where they stopped for refreshment.

At this time several smugglers were in the house, and one of them observing Galley take a letter from his pocket, directed to Mr. Battine, surveyor at Chichester, he conjectured that the business of the officers was to give evidence against Dimar: on which, the smugglers told them they had missed their way by ten miles, and added that they would go with them, and put them into the right road.

This offer, so apparently generous, being accepted, they all travelled in company some miles, and then stopped to drink at the house of a widow, named Payne, who had two sons that were concerned in the illicit practice of smuggling. Mrs. Payne informed her sons that she suspected the two strangers to be custom-house officers; on which the young fellows went out, and brought in some of their companions. In the interim Chater and Galley drank plentifully; and the liquor opening their hearts, they were so much off their guard, as to talk so freely, that the smugglers became well acquainted with their business and connexions.

Having drank about six hours, they slept about two more, when it was eight o'clock at night; at which time Jackson struck them, and bade them rise, for they should stay there no longer.

Hereupon the unhappy men got on horseback, and were attended by the smugglers, who for a while debated how to dispose of them. Some of the company proposed to confine them till they could find a convenient opportunity of transporting them to France; but this was opposed by the greater number of the gang.

It was not long after they quitted Mrs. Payne's house, when the smugglers began to whip them in a manner too inhuman to be described. This severity was continued about half a mile, till they reached a place called Woodashes, where the smugglers drank each of them a glass of brandy.

Proceeding thence, they continued to whip the unhappy men a mile farther, when apprehending they would drop to the ground, they tied their feet under the bellies of their horses: but, notwithstanding this caution, the poor wretches dropped through extremity of pain, and their heads dragged on the ground.

The intentional murderers, callous to all the feelings of humanity, now replaced them on their horses, and continued to whip them as they had before done, till they came to Goodthorp-Dean, at the distance of half a mile

more, where they stopped, and again beat them with the utmost severity. One of the smugglers now produced a pistol, and swore he would shoot the poor men through the head, if they made any noise till they had got past the village.

Proceeding forwards, they once more beat them as before, and the unhappy victims to undeserved barbarity fell under the bellies of the horses when they were about a quarter of a mile out of the village. Their sufferings by this time were so great, that they were half dead; on which the smugglers took them from their horses, and placed each of them behind one of their own companions.

In this manner they went forward till they arrived at a place called Lady-Holt-park, where the smugglers took Galley from the horse, with an intention of throwing him into a well; and indeed his sufferings had been by this time so extreme, that he might wish to have got rid of the burden of life at any rate.

At this juncture some of the smugglers objected to the throwing him into the well: on which he was again placed on the horse; but he had not rode far, before he was so weak as to be unable to keep his seat; whereupon he was taken off, and laid across the horse, with his belly downwards; and having been thus carried more than a mile, he was placed with his legs across the saddle, but his body hung over the neck of the horse.

During the transacting these scenes of inhumanity, Galley cried out, "Barbarous usage! for God's sake shoot me through the head, or through the body!" But instead of complying with his request, they fastened him to the horse with a cord, and one of the smugglers rode behind him; but in going down a hill, he fell from the horse, and expired on the spot.

The villains were afraid to leave the body of the deceased on the road, but put it again across the horse, and conveyed it to the house of a smuggler in the neighbourhood, with whom they conferred as to the mode of dis-

posing of it. This man advised them to carry it to the distance of three quarters of a mile, and bury it: and went with them to show them a proper spot: and when they came there they dug a grave, and threw in the body, throwing the earth over it.

This transaction happened on the 13th of February, and on the 13th of September following (a distance of seven months), a gentleman named Stone, being on a party of hunting, discovered the grave; and, the place being searched, the body was found, though in a corrupted state. The coat and boots were likewise found; the former retaining its original colour; and in the pocket was found Mr. Galley's deputation from the commissioners of the customs. In the mean time, several of the murderers had fled to France, in order to screen themselves from the justice of their country; but some of them were afterwards admitted evidences, in order to enforce this justice. But it is now proper that we should advert to the case of the other unfortunate sufferer.

The smugglers having disposed of Galley, took Chater to the house of old Mills, one of their accomplices in iniquity, where they chained him to a stake in an outhouse where turf was kept, and in this place he remained three days.

While he was in this situation, Tapner pulled out a clasped knife, and swearing he would be his butcher, cut him over both his eyes, and down his forehead, so that he bled to a great degree. He was desired to say his prayers, for (to use their own language) "they were come to kill him and kill him they would." This speech was particularly made use of by Tapner; and none of the company interposed to save his life.

At length one of them unlocked the chain, and put him on horseback, to carry him to the well in Lady-Holt-park, where having arrived, three of them got off their horses, and Tapner having tied a cord round his neck, led him forwards, when seeing some pales that surrounded the well broke down, he would have gone through the open-

ing; but Tapner said, "No, you shall get over;" which he did, with the rope about his neck.

They then put him into the well, and hung him, winding the rope about the paling; and when his body had hung thus about a quarter of an hour, one of them took hold of his legs, and let his head fall foremost into the well; and Tapner loosening the rope, the body fell to the bottom of the well. This being done, they remained some time, when one of the company saying he thought he heard him breathe, they threw a gate-post or two into the well, and then departed.

On their return home, these execrable murderers stopped at the house of one of their acquaintance to drink, where they were hardened enough to boast of the outrage they had committed, and even spoke of it as a circumstance that merited praise.

After a long and diligent search for the perpetrators of these crimes, some of the smugglers were taken up on suspicion, and being examined in presence of the commissioners of the customs, were admitted evidences for the crown, on discovering all they knew of the horrid transaction.

In consequence hereof, the prisoners were brought to trial, at the time and place above-mentioned; when sir Michael Foster presided in court.

The judge's charge to the grand jury was full of good sense, and highly reprobated the practice of smuggling, by which the fair trader is defrauded, and the revenue greatly injured.

When the trial came on, the evidence was very full and circumstantial against the prisoners; and the jury, after being out of court about a quarter of an hour, brought in a verdict of guilty against all the prisoners: whereupon the judge pronounced sentence on the convicts, in one of the most pathetic addresses that was ever heard: representing the enormity of their crime, and exhorting them to make immediate preparation for the awful fate that

awaited them: adding that "christian charity obliges me to tell you, that your time in this world will be very short."

The heinousness of the crime of which these men had been convicted rendering it necessary that their punishment should be exemplary, the judge ordered that they should be executed on the following day; and the sentence was accordingly carried into execution against all but Jackson, who died in prison on the evening that he was condemned.

They were hanged at Chichester, on the 18th of January, 1749, amidst such a concourse of spectators as is seldom seen on occasion of a public execution.

Carter was hung in chains near Rake in Sussex; Tapner on Rooks-hill, near Chichester; and Cobby and Hammond on the sea-coast, near a place called Selsey-bill, in Sussex, where they could be seen to a great distance East and West.

JOHN CARR,

FORGER.

Executed November 16th, 1730.

THIS offender was a native of the north of Ireland, who having had a genteel education, was put into business as a wine and brandy merchant, but through extravagance and company he failed. A man of fortune, who was one of his abandoned associates, invited him to pass part of the summer at his seat in the country; and setting out together, they stopped at Kilkenny, where some passengers quitted a coach, among whom was a young lady, whose elegant person and appearance impressed Carr with an idea that she was of rank, and inspired him with the first sentiments of love that he ever felt. Throwing himself from his horse, he handed her into the inn; and a proposal being made that the company should sup together, it was universally agreed to. While the supper was preparing, Carr applied himself to the coachman, to learn the history of the young lady; but all the information he could obtain was, that he had taken her up at Dublin, and that she was going to the Spa at Mallow.

Anxious to become better acquainted with the lady, he prevailed on the company to repose themselves the next day at Kilkenny, and take a view of the duke of Ormond's seat and the curiosities of the town. This proposal being acceded to, the evening was spent in the utmost harmony and good-humour; and the fair stranger even then conceived an idea of making a conquest of Carr, from whose

appearance she judged that he was a man of distinction. In the morning, she dressed herself to great advantage, not forgetting the ornament of jewels, which she wore in abundance; so that when she entered the room, Carr was astonished at her appearance. She found the influence she had over him, and while the company was walking in the gallery of the duke of Ormond's palace, he seized this opportunity of speaking his sentiments. On his declaration of love, she affected displeasure; but soon assuming a more affable deportment, told him, that she was an English woman of rank; that his person was not disagreeable to her, and that if he was a man of fortune, and the consent of her relations could be obtained, she should not be averse to listening to his addresses. She further said, that she was going to spend part of the summer at Mallow, where his company would be agreeable.

Accordingly, he followed her to that place, contrary to the advice of his friend, who had formed a very unfavourable opinion of the lady's character. Here he dissipated so much cash in company with this woman, that he was compelled to borrow of his friend, who remonstrated on the impropriety of the connexion; but Carr still kept her company, and at the end of the season, returned with her to Dublin.

The lovers now agreed to set sail for England; and Carr sold some small estates, and borrowing all the money he possibly could, delivered the whole to his mistress. While preparations were making for the voyage, and Carr about procuring a passage for England, in his absence, the lady shipped all the effcts on board a vessel bound for Amsterdam; and having dressed herself in man's apparel, she embarked and sailed, leaving Carr to regret his ill-judged credulity. On his return home, discovering how he had been robbed, he was at first distracted with his loss; but on cooler reflection, thought it would be in vain to pursue the thief; on which he sold the few trifles that remained of his property, which producing about a hundred pounds, came to London, and soon spent the whole in dissipation and extravagance.

Thus reduced, he enlisted as a foot-soldier, and served some years before he was discharged; after which he entered as a marine at Plymouth, whence he came to London, and opened a shop in Hog-lane, St Giles's. He now married a girl who he thought had money; but soon discovering her poverty, he abandoned her, and removed to Short's-gardens, where he entered into partnership with a cork-cutter. Having ingratiated himself into the esteem of his customers, he opened shop on his own account, and soon got all the business from his late partner. This however, proved of little service to him; for getting into bad company, he frequented the gaming-tables, and became the dupe of sharpers. Having been entrusted by a gentleman with a draught on the bank for sixty pounds, he received the money, foolishly ventured, lost it at a gaming table, and then entered as a marine. There being something in his deportment superior to the vulgar, he was advanced to the rank of serjeant, in which he behaved so well, that his officers treated him with singular regard.

The vessel in which he sailed taking a merchant ship richly laden, and soon afterwards several smaller vessels, the prize-money amounted to a considerable sum; which gave Carr an idea that great advantage might be obtained by privateering. Hereupon, he procured a discharge; and entering on board a privateer, was made master at arms. In a few days, the privateer took two French ships one of which they carried to Bristol, and the other into the harbour of Poole. Having refitted their ship, they sailed again; and in two days took a French privateer, and gave chase to three others, which they found to be English vessels belonging to Falmouth, which had been made prize of by a French privateer. These they retook, and carried them into Falmouth; in their passage to which place, they made prize of a valuable French ship, the the amount of which contributed to enrich the crew.

On their next trip, they saw a ship in full chase of them; on which they prepared for a vigorous defence;

and the vessels fought about forty minutes yard-arm and yard-arm. Many hands were lost by the French, who at length attempted to steer off, but were taken, after a chase of some leagues. The commander of the English privateer being desperately wounded in the engagement, died in a few days, on which, Carr, courted his widow, and a marriage would have taken place, but that she was suddenly seized with a violent fever, of which she died, having bequeathed to him all she was possessed of.

He now repaired to London, where he commenced smuggler; but his ill-gotten effects being seized on by the officers of the revenue, he took to the more dangerous practice of forging seamen's wills, and gained money for some time; being, however, apprehended, he was brought to trial at the Old Bailey, convicted, and sentenced to die.

He was of the Romish persuasion, and behaved with decent resignation to his fate, having suffered November the 16th, 1750.

MARY BLANDY,

PARRICIDE.

Executed at Oxford, April 6th, 1752.

THE unfortunate subject of this narrative, was the only daughter of Mr. Francis Blandy, an eminent attorney at Henley upon Thames, and town-clerk of that place. She had been educated with the utmost tenderness, and every possible care was taken to impress on her mind sentiments of virtue and religion. Her person had nothing in it remarkably engaging; but she was of a sprightly and affable disposition, polite in manners, and engaging in conversation; and was uncommonly distinguished by her good sense.

She had read the best authors in the English language, and had a memory remarkably retentive of the knowledge she had acquired. In a word, she excelled most of her sex in those accomplishments which are calculated to grace and dignify a female mind. As her father was reputed to be rich, a number of young gentlemen courted his acquaintance, with a view to obtain the heart of his daughter; but of all the visitors none were more agreeable, both to father and daughter, than the gentlemen of the army; and the former was never better pleased than when he had some of them at his table.

At the age of twenty-six, Miss Blandy became acquainted with Captain William Henry Cranstoun, who was then about forty-six. He was the son of Lord Cranstoun, of an ancient Scotch family, which had made great alliances,

by inter marriages with the nobility of Scotland. Being a younger brother, his uncle, Lord Mark Ker, procured him a commission in the army, which, with the interest of 1500l. was all he had for his support.

This gentleman married a Miss Murray, in Scotland, in the year 1745, and received a handsome fortune with her: but he was defective in the great article of prudence. His wife was delivered of a son within a year after the marriage; and about this period he received orders to join his regiment in England, and was sent on a recruiting party to Henley, when he became acquainted with Miss Blandy.

It may seem extraordinary, and is, perhaps, a proof of Cranstoun's art, that he could ingratiate himself into the affections of this lady, for his person was diminutive: he was marked with the small pox, his face was in seams, and he squinted very much: but he possessed that faculty of small talk, which is too prevalent with many of the fair sex.

Mr. Blandy, who was acquainted with Lord Mark Ker, was fond of being deemed a man of taste, and so open to flattery, that it is not to be wondered at that a man of Cranstoun's artifice ingratiated himself into his favour, and obtained permission to pay his rddresses to his daughter. Apprehending that Miss Blandy might discover that he had a wife in Scotland, he informed her that he was involved in a disagreeable law-suit in that country, with a young lady who claimed him as a husband; and so sure was he of the interest he had obtained in Miss Blandy's affections, that he had the confidence to ask her if she loved him well enough to wait the issue of the affair.

Cranstoun endeavoured to conduct this amour with all possible secrecy; notwithstanding which, it came to the knowledge of Lord Mark Ker, who wrote to Mr. Blandy, informing him the captain had a wife and children in Scotland, and conjuring him to preserve his daughter from ruin.

Alarmed by this intelligence, Mr. Blandy informed his daughter of it; but she did not seem equally affected, as Cranstoun's former declaration had prepared her to expect such news; and when the old gentleman taxed Cranstoun with it, he declared it was only an affair of gallantry, from which he should have no difficulty to free himself.

Mrs. Blandy appears to have been under a great degree of infatuation as her daughter; for she forbore all farther inquiry, on the captain's bare assurance that the report of his marriage was false. Cranstoun, however, could not be equally easy; he saw the necessity of devising some scheme to get his first marriage annulled, or of bidding adieu to all the gratifications he could promise himself by a second.

After revolving various schemes in his mind, he at length wrote to his wife, requesting her to disown him for a husband; observing that "having no other way of rising to preferment but in the army, he had but little ground to expect advancement there, while it was known he was incumbered with a wife and family: but could he once pass for a single man, he had not the least doubt of being quickly preferred: which would procure him a sufficiency to maintain her, as well as himself, in a genteeler manner than now he was able to do. All, therefore, (added he) I have to request of you, is, that you will transcribe the inclosed copy of a letter, wherein you disown me for a husband; put your maiden name to it, and send it by the post: all the use I shall make of it will be to procure my advancement, which will necessarily include your own benefit."

Mrs. Cranstoun, ill as she had been treated by her husband, and little hope as she had of more generous usage, was, after repeated letters had passed, induced to give up her claim, and at length sent him the requested paper, signed Murray, which was her maiden name.

The captain, now possessed of this letter, made some copies of it, which he sent to his wife's relations, and his own: the consequence of which was, that they withdrew the assistance they had afforded the lady, which reduced her to an extremity she had never before experienced. Exclusive of this, he instituted a suit before the lords of session, for the dissolution of the marriage; but when Mrs. Cranstoun was heard, and the letters read, the artful contrivance was seen through, the marriage was confirmed, and Cranstoun was adjudged to pay the expenses of the trial.

At the next sessions, Capt. Cranstoun preferred a petition, desiring to be heard by council, on new evidence which it was pretended had arisen respecting Miss Murray. This petition, after some hesitation, was heard; but the issue was, that the marriage was again confirmed, and Cranstoun was obliged to allow his wife a separate maintenance.

Still, however, he paid his addresses to Miss Blandy with the same fervency as before; which coming to the knowledge of Mrs. Cranstoun, she sent her the decree of the court of session, establishing the validity of the marriage. It is reasonable to suppose, that this would have convinced Miss Blandy of the erroneous path in which she was treading. On this occasion she consulted her mother; and Cranstoun having set out for Scotland, the old lady advised her to write to him, to know the truth of the affair.

Absurd as this advice was, she wrote to him; but soon after the receipt of her letter, he returned to Henley, when he had impudence enough to assert that the cause was not finally determined, but would be referred to the House of Lords.

Mr. Blandy gave very little credit to this assertion; but his credulous wife assented at once to all he said, and treated him with as much tenderness as if he had been her own son. Mrs Blandy and her daughter having come to London, the former wanted 40l. to discharge a debt she

had contracted unknown to her husband; and Cranstoun coming into the room while the mother and daughter were weeping over their distresses, he demanded the reason of their grief; of which being informed, he left them, and soon returning with the requisite sum, he threw it into the old lady's lap. Charmed by this apparent generosity, she burst into tears, and squeezed his hand fervently: on which he embraced her, and said, "Remember, it is a son; therefore do not make yourself uneasy: you do not lie under any obligation to me."

Of this debt of forty pounds, ten pounds had been contracted by the ladies while in London, for expenses in consequence of their pleasures; and the other thirty by expensive treats given to Cranstoun at Henley, during Mr. Blandy's absence.

Soon after this, Mrs. Blandy died; and Cranstoun complaining of his fear of being arrested for the forty pounds, the young lady borrowed that sum, which she gave him; and made him a present of her watch; so that he was gainer by his former generosity.

Mr. Blandy began now to evince his disapprobation of Captain Cranstoun's visits: but he contrived to have secret interviews with the daughter, to whom he complained of the father's ill treatment; insinuating that he had a method of conciliating his esteem; and that when he arrived in Scotland he would send her some powders proper for the purpose; on which, to prevent suspicion, he would write *powders to clean the Scotch pebbles.*

It does not appear that the young lady had any idea that the powders he was to send her were of a poisonous nature. She seems rather to have been infatuated by her love; and this is the only excuse that can be made for her subsequent conduct, which appears otherwise totally inconsistent with that good sense for which she was celebrated. Cranstoun sent her the powders, according to promise; and Mr. Blandy being indisposed on the Sunday se'nnight before his death, Susan Gunnel, a maid servant, made him some water-gruel, into which Miss Blandy conveyed some

of the powder, and gave it to her father; and repeating this draught on the following day, he was tormented with the most violent pains in his bowels.

When the old gentleman's disorder increased, and he was attended by a physician, his daughter came into the room, and falling on her knees to her father, said "Banish me where you please; do with me what you please, so you do but forgive me; and as for Cranstoun, I will never see him, speak to him, or write to him, as long as I live, if you will but forgive me." In reply to this, the father said, 'I forgive thee, my dear, and I hope God will forgive; but thou shouldst have considered before thou attemptedst any thing against thy father; thou shouldst have considered I was thy *own* father.'

Miss Blandy now acknowledged that she had put powder in his gruel, but that it was for an innocent purpose, on which the father, turning in his bed, said, "O such a villain! to come to my house, eat of the best, and drink of the best my house could afford; and in return take away my life, and ruin my daughter. O! my dear, thou must hate that man."

The young lady replied, "Sir, every word you say is like a sword piercing to my heart; more severe than if you were angry: I must kneel, and beg you will not curse me." "I curse thee, my dear!" rejoined her father: "how couldst thou think I would curse thee? No, I bless thee, and hope God will bless thee, and amend thy life. Do, my dear, go out of the room; say no more, lest thou shouldst say any thing to thy own prejudice. Go to thy uncle Stephens; and take him for thy friend: poor man; I am sorry for him."

Mr. Blandy dying in consequence of his illness, it was suspected that his daughter had occasioned his death; whereupon she was taken into custody, and committed to the gaol at Oxford. She was tried on the 3d of March, 1752, before Mr. Baron Legge; and after many witnesses had been called to give evidence of her guilt, she was de-

sired to make her defence, which she did in the following speech:

"My Lord,

"It is morally impossible for me to lay down the hardships I have received—I have been aspersed in my character. In the first place, it has been said, I spoke ill of my father; that I have cursed him, and wished him at hell; which is extremely false. Sometimes little family affairs have happened, and he did not speak to me so kind as I could wish. I own I am passionate, my lord; and in those passions some hasty expressions might have dropped: but great care has been taken to recollect every word I have spoken at different times, and to apply them to such particular purposes as my enemies knew would do me the greatest injury. These are hardships, my lord, such as yourself must allow to be so. It was said too, my lord, that I endeavoured to make my escape. Your lordship will judge from the difficulties I laboured under: I had lost my father;—I was accused of being his murderer;—I was not permitted to go near him;—I was forsaken by my friends—affronted by the mob—and insulted by my servants. Although I begged to have the liberty to listen at the door where he died, I was not allowed it. My keys were taken from me; my shoe-buckles and garters too—to prevent me from making away with myself, as though I was the most abandoned creature. What could I do, my lord? I verily believe I must have been out of my senses. When I heard my father was dead, I ran out of the house, and over the bridge, and had nothing on but a half sack and petticoats, without a hoop—my petticoats hanging about me;—the mob gathered about me. Was this a condition, my lord, to make my escape in? A good woman beyond the bridge, seeing me in this distress, desired me to walk in, till the mob was dispersed: the town serjeant was there; I begged he would take me under his protection, to have sent me home: the woman said it was not proper, the mob was very great, and that I had better stay

a little. When I came home, they said I used the constable ill. I was locked up for fifteen hours, with only an old servant of the family to attend me. I was not allowed a maid for the common decencies of my sex. I was sent to gaol, and was in hopes there at least this usage would have ended; but was told, it was reported I was frequently drunk; that I attempted to make my escape: that I did not attend at chapel. A more abstemious woman, my lord, I believe does not live. Upon the report of my making my escape, the gentleman who was high sheriff last year (not the present) came and told me, by order of the higher powers, he must put an iron on me. I submitted, as I always do to the higher powers. Some time after he came again, and said he must put on heavier upon me; which I have worn, my lord, till I came hither. I asked the sheriff why I was so ironed? He said, he did it by the command of some noble peer, on his hearing that I intended to make my escape. I told them I never had any such thought, and I would bear it with the other cruel usage I had received on my character. The Rev. Mr. Swinton, the worthy clergyman who attended me in prison, can testify I was regular at the chapel, whenever I was well; sometimes I really was not able to come out, and then he attended me in my room. They have likewise published papers and depositions, which ought not to have been published, in order to represent me as the most abandoned of my sex, and to prejudice the world against me. I submit myself to your lordships, and to the worthy jury.—I do assure your lordship, as I am to answer it at the great tribunal, where I must appear, I am as innocent as the child unborn of the death of my father. I would not endeavour to save my life, at the expense of truth. I really thought the powder an innocent, inoffensive thing; and I gave it to procure his love (meaning towards Cranstoun). It has been mentioned, I should say I was ruined. My lord, when a young woman loses her character, is not that her ruin? Why then should this expression be construed in

so wide a sense? Is it not ruining my character to have such a thing laid to my charge? And whatever may be the event of this trial, I am ruined most effectually."

The trial lasted eleven hours, and then the judge summed up the evidence with the utmost candour, mentioning the scandalous behaviour of some people respecting the prisoner, in printing and publishing what they called depositions taken before the coroner, relating to the affair before them: to which he added, "I hope you have not seen them; but if you have, I must tell you, as you are men of sense and probity, that you must divest yourselves of every prejudice that can arise from thence, and attend merely to the evidence that has been now given." The jury found her guilty without going out of court.

After conviction, she behaved with the utmost decency and resignation. She was attended by the Rev. Mr. Swinton, from whose hands she received the sacrament on the day before her execution, declaring that she did not know that there where any thing hurtful in the powders she had given her father.*

The night before her death she spent in devotion; and at nine in the morning she left her apartment, dressed in a black bombazine, and having her arms bound with black ribbons. The clergyman attended her to the place of execution, to which she walked with the utmost solemnity of deportment; and when there, acknowledged her fault in administering the powders to her father; but declared that, as she must soon appear before the most awful tribunal, she had no idea of doing injury, nor any suspicion that the powders were of a poisonous nature.

Having ascended some steps of the ladder, she said, "Gentlemen, don't hang me high, for the sake of decen-

* Had Miss Blandy not been a woman of mental endowments, this *weakness* might have been believed; yet we must acknowledge that the artifice of a libertine can impose upon the *most sensible* of the sex. What a pity that the deluder did not suffer instead of the deluded!

cy." Being desired to go something higher, she turned about, and expressed her apprehensions that she should fall. The rope being put round her neck, she pulled her handkerchief over her face, and was turned off on holding out a book of devotions which she had been reading.

The crowd of spectators assembled on this occasion was immense; and when she had hung the usual time, she was cut down, and the body being put into a hearse, was conveyed to Henley, and interred with her parents, at one o'clock on the following morning.

She suffered at Oxford, on the 6th of April, 1752.

Cranstoun, the original contriver of this horrid murder, having heard of Miss Blandy's commitment to Oxford gaol, concealed himself some time in Scotland, and then escaped to Boulogne in France. Meeting there with Mrs. Ross, who was distantly related to his family, he acquainted her with his situation, and begged her protection: on which, she advised him to change his name for her maiden name of Dunbar.

Some officers in the French service, who were related to his wife, hearing of his concealment, vowed revenge if they should meet with him, for his cruelty to the unhappy woman: on which he fled to Paris, whence he went to Furnes, a town in Flanders, where Mrs. Ross had provided a lodging for his reception.

He had not been long at Furnes when he was seized with a severe fit of illness, which brought him to a degree of reflection, to which he had been long a stranger. At length, he sent for a father belonging to an adjacent convent, and received absolution from his hands, on declaring himself a convert to the Roman faith.

He died on the 30th of November, 1752, and the fraternity of monks and friars looked on his conversion as an object of such importance, that solemn mass was sung on the occasion, and the body was followed to the grave, not only by the ecclesiastics, but by the magistrates of the

town. His papers were sent to Scotland, to his brother, lord Cranstoun: his clothes were sold for the discharge of his debts; and his wife came into possession of the interest of his fortune, fifteen hundred pounds.

MATTHIAS BRINSDEN,

MURDERER.

Executed at TYBURN, September 24th, 1722.

THIS man served his time to a Mr. Beech, a cloth-drawer in Blackfriars, whose successor, Mr. Byfield, left the business to Brinsden, who married Byfield's widow. Having buried this wife, he married a second, by whom he had ten children, the eldest of whom were brought up to work at his business. In consequence of a severe fever, during which he was deprived of his senses, and tied down to his bed, his trade entirely failed: and on his recovery he carried newspapers, and did any other business he could to support his family.

Going home about nine o'clock one evening, his wife, who was sitting on a bed, suckling a young child, asked him what she should have for supper; to which he answered, "bread and cheese—Can't you eat that as well as the children?" She replied, "No, I want a bit of meat." "But," said he, "I have no money to buy any." In answer to which she said, "You know I have had but little to-day:" and some farther words arising between them,

he stabbed her under the left breast with a knife. The deed was no sooner perpetrated than one of the daughters snatched the infant from her mother's breast, and another cried out, "O Lord! father, you have killed my mother." The prisoner now sent for some basilicon and sugar, which he applied to the wound, and then made his escape.

A surgeon being sent for, found that the wound was mortal; and the poor woman died soon after he came, about half an hour after the wound was given. In the interim, the murderer had retreated to the house of Mr. King, a barber, at Shadwell, whence, on the following day, he sent a letter to one of his daughters, and another to a woman of his acquaintance: and in consequence of these letters he was discovered, taken into custody, carried before a magistrate, and committed to take his trial for murder.

When on trial, he urged in his defence, that his wife was in some degree intoxicated, that she wanted to go out and drink with her companions, and that while he endeavoured to hinder her, she threw herself against the knife, and received an accidental wound. The evidence against him was, however, so clear, that his allegations had no weight, and he received sentence of death.

After conviction he became serious and resigned, and being visited by one of his daughters, who had given evidence against him, he took her in his arms, and said, "God forgive me, I have robbed you of your mother: be a good child, and rather die than steal: never be in a passion: but curb your anger, and honour your mistress: she will be as a father and mother to you. Farewell, my dear child: pray for your father, and think of him as favourably as you can."

On his way to the place of execution, the same daughter was permitted to go into the cart, to take her last farewell of him; a scene that was greatly affecting to the spectators.

In contradiction to some very unfavourable reports, he desired the ordinary of Newgate to read a declaration he had written, just before he was launched into eternity, of which the following is an extract:

" I was born of kind parents, who gave me learning: I went apprentice to a fine-drawer. I had often jars, which might increase a natural waspishness in my temper. I fell in love with Hannah, my last wife, and after much difficulty won her, she having five suitors courting her at the same time. We had ten children, (half of them dead) and I believe we loved each other dearly; but often quarrelled and fought. Pray, good people, mind, I had no malice against her, nor thought to kill her two minutes before the deed; but I designed only to make her obey me thoroughly, which the scripture says, all wives should do. This I thought I had done, when I cut her scull on Monday, but she was the same again on Tuesday."

He suffered at Tyburn, on the 24th of September, 1722.

JAS. O'COIGLEY, alias FAVEY,

TRAITOR.

Executed June 7th, 1798.

THIS man, with Arthur O'Connor, John Binns, John Allen, and Jeremiah Leary, was tried at Maidstone, May 21, 1798, on the charge of high treason. The indictment was read by Mr. Knapp, who afterwards stated the charges it contained in a summary manner. He said there was three distinct species of treason charged in the indictment, and seven overt acts. The first treason was, compassing and imagining the death of the king; the second, adhering to his enemies; the third, compassing and imagining, inventing, devising, and intending, to move and stir certain foreigners and strangers, that is to say, the persons exercising the powers of government in France, to invade this kingdom. The first overt act, sending intelligence to the enemy; the other overt acts were attempts to hire vessels, and to leave the kingdom. The trial lasted for two days. A pocket-book had been found in O'Coigley's great-coat, in which was a paper addressed to the Executive Directory of France, from the Secret Committee of England. O'Coigley, in his defence, addressed the jury as follows.

"It is impossible for me to prove a negative; but it is a duty I owe to you, and to myself, solemnly to declare, that I never was the bearer of any message or paper of this kind to France in the course of my life. That paper

is not mine: it never belonged to me. It states, that it was to be carried by the bearer of the last: this is something which might have been proved, but it is impossible for me to prove a negative. There is also in this paper an allusion to secret committees and political societies. I declare that I never attended any political society whatever. With these considerations, I consign my life to your justice; not doubting but that you will conduct yourselves as English jurymen ever do, and that your verdict will be such as shall receive the approbation of your own conscience, your country, and your God."

The jury, after about half an hour's consideration, found O'Coigley Guilty, and acquitted the rest. Mr Justice Buller, in an address to O'Coigley, which he read from a written paper, previous to his passing the sentence, observed—"That he had been clearly convicted of the most atrocious crime which could be committed in any country—that of meditating the destruction of a sovereign who was one of the best, the most just, upright, and amiable princes that ever graced a throne; and he could not conceive what were the motives which could actuate any man even to wish for the death of such, who had ever been a father of his people.

The prisoner was also found guilty of conspiring to overturn the constitution of these kingdoms; a constitution, which, from the experiment of years, had been found to be the best calculated of any that ever existed in the world, to insure the liberty, security, and happiness, of the people who lived under it. These atrocious crimes became still greater from the manner in which they had intended to be perpetrated—that of inviting a foreign enemy to come and invade and conquer these countries. Those people who had thought such an event a desirable one, ought to think seriously what the consequences of it would be, provided it was possible to be accomplished. Did they suppose, that, desperate as their present situation might be, their condition would be bettered by hav-

ing their country put into the possession of people who were holding out the delusive hopes of what they called liberty to other nations? could such persons hope that they themselves should enjoy liberty, even supposing the conquerors to have enjoyed as free a constitution as any in the world? no,—they would become suspected, be despised, and destroyed, by them.

A celebrated writer (Montesquieu) very justly observed upon this subject, that a country conquered by a democratic nation always enjoyed less liberty, was more miserable, and more enslaved, than if that country happened to have been conquered by a nation whose government was monarchical. But if there were any illustration of this observation wanting, we had only to look to the conduct of the French at this moment towards Holland, Italy, Switzerland, and every other country they had conquered.

His lordship believed that the prisoner might have been actuated by motives similar to those which used formerly to induce many people to think that the killing of men of a different religion would give them a claim to canonization. But though the motives might be similar, the subjects connected with them were very different. In the present times he did not believe that any person entertained such sentiments about religion. On the contrary, he was sorry to find that religion was too much neglected, and that the peace and tranquillity of numbers of people were destroyed in consequence of having lost all belief in a Providence, and abandoned all hopes of a future state. He was afraid that the prisoner had been infected with infidelity, and if he were, he, the judge, prayed that the Almighty God, in his infinite mercy and goodness, would change his heart, and cause him to repent of his sins."

His lordship then, in a solemn and awful manner, passed the following sentence. "That the prisoner be taken from the bar to prison, and from thence to the place of execution; there to be hanged, but not until he be dead; to be cut down while yet alive, and then to have

his heart and bowels taken out and burnt before his face; his head to be severed from his body, and his body to be divided into four quarters.

Mr O'Coigley listened to this address and sentence with attention, but at the same time with the greatest coolness. He bowed his head when the judge concluded; his countenance expressing at once resignation and firmness.

On Wednesday, June 6, 1798, between four and five in the afternoon, he received the information that he was to die the next day, without apparent emotion. He spent the evening very calmly. He had but one thing, he said, on his mind which created anxiety; that was, an apprehension that he might be misrepresented after his death. He was anxious to be faithfully reported, and that was all he wanted.

On Thursday, at a quarter past eleven o'clock, he left the gaol. He was dressed all in black, his hair was cropped and powdered, his shirt-collar open, and he wore no neck-cloth. His elbows were tied behind with ropes, and over his shoulders was the rope with which he was executed. He stepped into the hurdle, and on his sitting down, a chain was put round his waist to fasten him. The executioner sat opposite him. He had nothing on his head. He continued all the way earnestly reading a prayer-book. Mr. Watson, the gaoler, followed the hurdle, which was surrounded by above two hundred of the Maidstone Volunteers. The deputy-sheriff and the Rev. Mr. Griffiths followed. The whole was preceded by about twenty javelin-men. The hurdle was drawn up close in front of the gallows, on Penningdon-heath, and the horses were taken out. The military formed a small square.

The prisoner being unchained, he rose up, and stood in the hurdle, and read two prayers, one of them aloud in Latin. He then took out of his pocket an orange, and also a penknife; but being unable to cut the orange, from his hands being bound, he gave it to a friend, whom he beckoned to come near him, saying, "Open this orange with my penknife; it has been said, they would not trust

me with a penknife, lest I should cut my throat; but they little knew that I would not deprive myself of the glory of dying in this way." He desired his friend to keep the penknife for his sake, and to hold the orange, several pieces of which he ate.

After finishing his devotions, the clergyman gave him absolution, to whom he returned the prayer-book; and, having ascended the platform, he took farewell of the gaoler, thanking him for the many civilities he had shown him. On his being tied up to the gallows, he made the following speech.

"I shall only here solemnly declare, that I am innocent of the charge for which I suffer. I never was in my life the bearer of any letter, or other paper or message, printed, written, or verbal, to the Directory of France, nor to any person on their behalf; neither was I ever a member of the London Corresponding Society, or of any other political society in Great Britain; nor did I attend any of their meetings, public or private—so help me God! I know not whether I shall be believed here in what I say, but I am sure I shall be believed in the world to come. It can scarcely be supposed, that one like me, in this situation, going to eternity, before the most awful tribunal, would die with a falsehood in his mouth; and I do declare, by the hopes I confidently feel of salvation and happiness in a future state, that my life is falsely and maliciously taken away by corrupt and base perjury, in some cases proceeding from mistake, no doubt, but in others from design. Almighty God; forgive all my enemies! I beg of you to pray that God will grant me grace—for I have many sins to answer for; but they are the sins of my private life, and not the charge for which I now die. *(Raising his voice)* Lord! have mercy on me, and receive my soul!"

A white nightcap was now drawn over his face, and he made a signal by dropping a handkerchief. The board

was then let down, as at Newgate, and he remained suspended for twelve or thirteen minutes; he was then taken down, the head taken off by a surgeon, and the executioner held up the head to the populace, saying, "*This is the head of a Traitor.*" Both head and body were then put into a shell and buried at the foot of the gallows.

MAJOR SEMPLE, alias JAMES GEORGE LISLE,

FELON.

THIS offendor had every appearance of a gentleman, but was a notorious thief and swindler, who, February 18th, 1795, was indicted at the Old Bailey, before Mr. Justice Buller, Mr. Justice Ashurst, Baron Thompson, the Recorder, &c. for stealing in the shop of Mr. Wattleworth, in Wigmore street, one yard of muslin, two yards of calico, and one linen shirt.

Todd, servant to Mr. Wattleworth, gave in evidence, that the prisoner came into their shop about noon on the 10th of November, and showing two patterns, one of muslin and the other of calico, said he wanted them matched for Mrs. Coningham, of Egham-green; they had not exactly the same pattern as the muslin; but he chose one, and a yard being cut off, and two yards of calico, he said, he would give them to the lady's servant, who was at the door, and calling in a man gave them to him. He then asked if Mr. Wattleworth was at home, saying, he wanted some shirts; as he was showing him some, Mr. Wattleworth came in, on which the witness left them together,

but afterwards came and took his name as Lieutenant-Colonel Lisle, which he entered in a book, and reading that as well as Mrs. Coningham's, at Egham-green, to whom the muslin and calico was set down, the prisoner replied, it was very right.

Mr. Wattleworth confirmed Todd's testimony, as to his coming in while he was serving the prisoner, and then said, that the Major stated himself to have just arrived from the Continent, and that he should want a quantity of shirts, and wished to take one with him to consult his sister, who he thought, would be a better judge of the linen than he was; that he would bring it back in the morning, and then give his order. This sister he called Coningham, and as the witness had a customer of that name, he made no hesitation, but gave him the shirt under those conditions.

This happened in November; but he never saw the prisoner again until January, when he was in custody in Bow-Street. In his cross-examination he admitted, that he had credited a Mrs. Coningham for the muslin and calico; but that he had afterwards made every inquiry at Egham, without being able to find that any such person lived there. He also admitted, that after the Major was in custody, some person came and asked him if the articles were paid for or returned, whether he would forbear appearing against the prisoner; but he would not say by whose authority that person came.

Such being the case, the counsel for the prisoner contended, that they had not made out the charge of the felony, the evidence, if true, amounting only to that of obtaining goods under false pretences; for they had even admitted they gave credit to Mrs. Coningham for the muslin and calico; and as for the shirt, it appeared he had been trusted with that, and it remained for the Jury to be convinced he had an intention of not returning it at the time he was so trusted, before they could convict him.

Mr. Justice Buller, who tried the cause, admitted the counsel was perfectly right as to the calico and muslin,

for it had been repeatedly so decided in various cases by the whole of the Judges; but he did not agree with him in respect to the shirt, and, therefore, should leave it to the Jury.

The Major being called upon for his defence, begged permission to read a few words he had put to paper, fearful his embarrassed situation might otherwise prevent him from saying what he wished. This paper stated, that he did not mean to deny he had unfortunately been in that place before; but some of the public prints had so misrepresented facts, that he had reason to fear the minds of the public might be so far prejudiced against him as to suppose he had spent his whole life in making depredations. To prove that it was not true, he begged to shew how his latter time had been passed. On going abroad, he found the French engaged in a war, fighting, as he thought, for freedom; he entered their service, and was soon honoured with rank in their army.

This, however, at much hazard, he quitted, on their declaring war against this country, and went over to the Austrians, with whom he for some time served as a volunteer. The commander noticing his exertions, gave him a commission of no small rank, in which he continued until he was recognized by some British officers, and it was instantly circulated through the army, that he was the convicted Semple, he having taken upon himself the name Lisle.

On this he was obliged to quit that service; but still willing and desirous to serve, he went towards the Rhine, and obtained a commission under the Hereditary Prince. He had not, however, been long here when a British officer sent to the commandant, that he had been condemned to transportation, but without stating the time had expired. Thus suspected of being a run-away felon, he was taken into custody by the police, and confined in a prison for more than five weeks, without even the permission of pen and ink. The fact being cleared up, he was set at liberty, but not without losing his situation; he again,

however, went into the field, and was twice wounded. This induced him to return home, and he sent a letter to Mr. Dundas, a copy of which he desired might be read; but the Court thinking it irrelevant, it was not admitted. He then concluded, that he had been thus persecuted, because he was Major Semple, and which had also brought him to that bar on that day upon a charge of which he was totally innocent.

Mr. Justice Buller recapitulated the evidence, and then explained the point of law, which, he said, was certainly in the prisoner's favour, as far as related to the muslin and calico; but it was not so with the shirt, for he not having bargained for that, nor any price being fixed on by the prosecutor, he could not be said to have given him credit for it, therefore, if they were convinced he took it away, intending not to return it, that as Mr. Justice Gould had formerly explained, would be an intent to steal it, and in that case they must find him Guilty.

The jury, after near half an hour's consideration, brought in a verdict, "Guilty of taking the shirt under false pretences." This, the Judge explained, was no verdict; on which, in a few minutes, they pronounced him "Guilty of stealing the shirt.—Not Guilty upon the charge of the muslin and calico."

Being put to the bar of the Old Bailey, on the 21st, he received sentence of transportation to such parts beyond the seas as his Majesty, with the advice of his Privy Council, shall think fit. The Major was dressed in his uniform.

After the sentence he bowed very respectfully, but did not speak, and appeared perfectly reconciled to his fate. Previous to this he had courted a young lady of Richmond, in Yorkshire, to whom he was to have been married, but a gentleman from London, knowing the Major's person, waited on the parents of the lady, and explaining his character, prevented any further intimacy between the parties.

On this occasion the Major produced the following lines, which we annex as a specimen of his poetic abilities:

For ever, O! merciless fair,
Will that cruel indiff'rence endure,
Can those eyes look me into despair,
And that heart be unwilling to cure?

How oft what I felt, to disguise
Has my reason imperiously strove,
Till my soul almost fell from my eyes,
In the tears of the tend'rest love.

Then Delia determine my fate,
Nor let me to madness be drove,*
But O! do not tell me you hate,
If you even resolve not to love.

---

* The grammarian will say it should be *driven*; but our best English poets have sometimes substituted the *perfect tense* for the *participle*.

GEORGE CADDELL,

MURDERER.

Executed at STAFFORD, July 21st, 1700.

THIS malefactor was a native of the town of Broomsgrove, in Worcestershire, at which place he was articled to an apothecary, with whom he served his time, and then repaired to London, where he attended several of the hospitals, to give him an insight into the art of surgery. As soon as he became tolerably acquainted with the profession, he went to Worcester, and lived with Mr. Randall, a capital surgeon of that city: in this situation he was equally admired for the depth of his abilities, and the amiableness of his temper. Here he married the daughter of Mr. Randall, who died in labour of her first child.

After this melancholy event he went to reside at Litchfield, and continued upwards of two years with Mr. Dean, a surgeon of that place. During his residence here, he courted Mr. Dean's daughter, to whom he would probably have been married, but for the commission of the following crime, which cost him his life.

A young lady, named Elizabeth Price, who had been seduced by an officer in the army, lived near Mr. Caddell's place of residence; and, after her misfortune, supported herself by her skill in needle-work. Caddell becoming acquainted with her, a considerable degree of intimacy subsisted between them; and Miss Price, degraded as she was by the unfortunate step she had taken, still

thought herself an equal match for one of Mr. Caddell's rank of life.

As pregnancy was shortly the consequence of their intimacy, she repeatedly urged him to marry her, but Mr. Caddell resisted her importunities for a considerable time: at last Miss Price heard of his paying his addresses to Miss Dean; she then became more importunate than ever, and threatened, in case of his non-compliance, to put an end to all his prospects with that young lady, by discovering every thing that had passed between them.

Hereupon Caddell formed the horrid resolution of murdering Miss price; for he could neither bear the thought of forfeiting the esteem of a woman that he courted, nor of marrying her who had been as condescending to another as to himself. This dreadful scheme having entered his head, he called on Miss Price on a Saturday evening, and requested that she would walk in the fields with him on the afternoon of the following day, in order to adjust the plan of their intended marriage. Miss Price, thus deluded, met him at the time appointed, on the road leading towards Burton-upon-Trent, at a house known by the sign of the Nag's Head. Having accompanied her supposed lover into the field, and walked about till towards evening, they then sat down under a hedge, where, after a little conversation, Caddell suddenly pulled out a knife, cut her throat, and made his escape, but not before he had waited till she was dead. However, in the distraction of his mind, he left behind him the knife with which he had perpetrated the deed, together with his case of instruments.

When he came home it was observed, that he appeared exceedingly confused; though the reason of the perturbation of his mind could not even be guessed at. But on the following morning Miss Price being found murdered in the field, great numbers of people went to take a view of the body, among whom was the woman of the house where she lodged, who recollected that she had said, she was going to walk with Mr. Caddell; on which the instru-

ments were examined, and known to have belonged to him: he was accordingly taken into custody, and committed to the gaol of Stafford; and being soon afterwards tried, was found guilty, condemned, and executed, at Stafford, on the 21st of July, 1700.

JOHN RICE,

FORGER.

THIS unfortunate man, was the son of Mr. Rice, of Spital-square, a considerable stock-broker, who lived in a style of elegance and respectability. Young Rice having received a liberal education, succeeded his father in his business, and was so successful as a broker, that his profits were estimated at one thousand two hundred pounds a year. Unhappily for himself, he lived too gay, having a country-house at Finchley, an elegant town house in John-street, Gray's Inn, and keeping a coach, chaise, chariot, and several livery servants, besides a negro-boy; yet still it is probable that he might have supported his credit, but that, flushed with success, he wished to grow still richer than he was, which led him on to that species of gaming called speculating in the stocks, by which he suffered so greatly, that, at different times, he was said to be a loser to the amount of sixty thousand pounds. In the vain hope, however, of recovering his circumstances, he he was tempted to the commission of forgery.

Among other of his employers was a Yorkshire lady, named Pierce, who had a very considerable property in South-Sea stock. In the name of Mrs. Pierce, he was adventurous enough to forge letters of attorney, by which he

received upwards of nineteen thousand pounds. Mrs. Pierce having occasion to come to town soon after this transaction, Rice, hearing of the intended journey, thought it necessary to consult his safety in flight. Hereupon he took a post-chaise for Dover, and embarked in the packet-boat for Calais, where he soon landed.

Hence he travelled to Cambray, a city in French Flanders, and the seat of an archbishop, which he had been taught to consider as a privileged place, where he could remain unmolested; in this he was mistaken, for the archbishop of Cambray, though a prince of the empire, was subject to the parliament of Tournay, and had, therefore, no power to protect a criminal fugitive.

Whether Mrs. Rice knew of her husband's design previous to his departure, or by letter from him, is uncertain; but she determined to follow him, and taking a post-chaise, reached Harwich, where she embarked in the packet for Holland, designing to travel thence to Cambray; but the wind proving contrary, the vessel was obliged to put back to Harwich, whence Mrs. Rice, returned to London, proposing to reimbark on a future occasion.

It is probable that Mrs. Rice now apprehended herself in security; but she had no sooner arrived in London than she was taken into custody, and being carried before the lord mayor, bank-notes to the amount of four thousand pounds were sewed up in her stays. On her examination, she acknowledged whither her husband had retired; and the crime with which he was charged being thought to affect public credit, our ministry dispatched a messenger to the English ambassador at Paris, desiring that he would use his interest with the people in power in France, to have the culprit delivered up to the justice of the laws of his native country.

This requisition was instantly complied with; and orders being sent to Cambray to secure Mr. Rice, notice was transmitted to London, that he was in custody: on which one of the clerks of the bank, and another of the South-Sea

house, went over with one of the King's messengers, to bring him to England.

On their arrival at the prison of Cambray, they found the presumed culprit in a state of great dejection. They were proceeding to have handcuffed him; but he falling on his knees, and with tears implored they would dispense with this disgraceful circumstance. They generously complied; and Rice was placed in one post-chaise with the messenger, the gentleman preceding in another. Having embarked for Dover, they landed, and proceeded immediately towards London. The news papers having mentioned what had happened respecting Mr. Rice, the public curiosity was so much excited, that crowds of people attended at every place where they stopped, to take a view of the unfortunate prisoner.

On their arrival in London, he was carried before the lord mayor, who remarking the utmost candour, even to generosity, in his answers to the questions that were proposed to him, committed him to the Poultry-compter, instead of sending him to Newgate; presuming that his situation might be rendered less disagreeable in the former than in the latter. Here he remained till the morning appointed for his trial, when he was taken to the Old Bailey in a coach, indicted and tried for the forgery on Mrs. Pierce. Lord Mansfield presided on this occasion; and when the evidence had been given, and the jury had brought in a verdict of "guilty," the prisoner looked up to the judge with a countenance of extreme distress, imploring that he might be recommended to the mercy of the sovereign.

In answer to this, lord Mansfield advised him not to flatter himself with hope of that mercy which there was no probability of being extended to him. His lordship farther observed, "that all public companies should take warning, by the present instance, carefully to examine all letters of attorney, for the more effectual prevention of fraud." After conviction, as well as before, he expressed the most sincere contrition.

While under sentence of death, he made the most serious preparation for the important change that awaited him. He expected the warrant for his execution some days before it arrived; and when it came, the fatal news was concealed from him till his wife who was then present, had retired. It is recorded, to the credit of Mr. Rice, that, before he quitted the kingdom, he sent for his tradesmen's bills, and discharged all those that were delivered. His friends petitioned that he might be allowed a coach to the place of execution; but this was denied; he was placed in a cart, and attended by a faithful friend, who, though all the rest of the world had deserted him, was too generous to leave him till the last fatal moment. At this time his behaviour was so exemplary, that the multitude could not refrain from tears; and perhaps no man ever ended his life at the fatal tree more universally lamented. He suffered at Tyburn.

His mother was living at the time of execution; and her friends, anxious to alleviate her distress, told her that her son was taken ill at Cambray; they then added, that his life was despaired of; and at length said, that he was dead. The old lady lived at Stoke-Newington; and when, on the day after execution, the cryers of dying speeches made their perambulations, the inhabitants of Newington, with a generosity that will ever do them honour, gave the poor people money not to cry the speeches near her house.

A commission of bankruptcy having been taken out against him, his effects were sold by auction, and amongst the rest *his negro boy*. A circumstance which was most severely and indeed justly censured in all the prints of the day: this savage insensibility of the *creditors* excited the indignation of the public far more than the crime of the unfortunate *debtor*.

CATHERINE HAYES,

TRAITORESS.

Executed at TYBURN, May 9th, 1726.

AS the case of this woman was as much the subject of public conversation as that of almost any one whose life has paid the penalty to the offended laws, we shall therefore be the more particular in our account of her. Indeed the affair is too remarkable to be ever forgotten.

Mrs. Hayes was the daughter of a poor man of the name of Hall, who lived near Birmingham. She remained with her parents till she was about 15 years old, and then having a dispute with her mother, she left her home, and set out with a view of going to London.

Her person being rather engaging, and some officers in the army meeting with her on the road, prevailed on her to accompany them to their quarters, at Great Ombersley, in Worcestershire, where she remained with them a considerable time.—On being dismissed by these officers, she strolled about the country, till arriving at the house of Mr. Hayes, a farmer, in Warwickshire, the famer's wife hired her as a servant.

When she had continued a short time in this service, Mr. Hayes's son fell violently in love with her, and a private marriage took place, which was managed in the following manner: Catherine left the house early in the morning, and the younger Hayes being a carpenter, prevailed on his mother to let him have some money to buy tools; but as soon as he had got it he set out, and meeting his sweetheart at a place they had agreed on, they went to

Worcester, where the nuptial rites were celebrated. At this time it happened that the officers, by whom she had been seduced, were at Worcester, and hearing of her marriage they caused young Hayes to be taken out of bed from his wife, under pretence that he had enlisted in the army.

Thus situated, he was compelled to send an account of the whole transaction to his father, who, though offended with his son for the rash step he had taken, went to a magistrate, who attended him to Worcester, and demanded by what authority the young man was detained. The officers endeavoured to excuse their conduct: but the magistrate, threatening to commit them to prison, if they did not release him, the young fellow immediately obtained his liberty.

The father, irritated at the imprudent conduct of his son, severely censured his proceedings; but considering that what was passed could not be recalled, had good sense enough not to persevere in his opposition to an unfavourable event.—Mr. Hayes now furnished his son with money to begin business for himself: and the young couple were in a thriving way, and appeared to live in harmony: but Mrs. Hayes, being naturally of a roving disposition prevailed on her husband to enlist for a soldier. The regiment in which he served being ordered to the Isle of Wight, Catherine followed him thither. He had not been long there before his father procured his discharge, which, as it happened in the time of war, was attended with an expense of 60l.

On the return of young Hayes and his wife, the father gave them an estate of 10l. per annum, to which he afterwards added another, of 16l. which, with the profit of their trade, would have been amply sufficient for their support. The husband bore the character of an honest, well-disposed man; he treated his wife very indulgently, yet she constantly complained of the covetousness of his disposition: but he had much more reason to complain of her disposition, for she was turbulent, quarrelsome, and perpetually exciting disputes among her neighbours.

The elder Mr. H. observing with concern how unfortunately his son was matched, advised him to leave her, and settle in some place where she might not find him. Such, however, was his attachment to her, that he could not comply with this advice; and she had the power of persuading him to come to London, after they had been married about six years.

On their arrival in the metropolis, Mr. Hayes took a house, part of which he let into lodgings, and opened a shop in the chandlery and coal trade, in which he was as successful as he could have wished. Exclusive of his profit by shop-keeping, he acquired a great deal of money by lending small sums on pledges, for at this time the trade of pawnbroking was followed by any one at pleasure, it having been then subject to no regulation.

Mrs. Hayes's conduct in London was still more reprehensible than it had been in the country. The chief pleasure of her life consisted in creating and encouraging quarrels among her neighbours; and indeed her unhappy disposition discovered itself on every occasion. Sometimes she would speak of her husband, to his acquaintance, in terms of tenderness and respect; and at other times she would represent him to her female associates as a compound of every thing that was contemptible in human nature. On a particular occasion, she told a woman of her acquaintance, that she should think it no more sin to murder him than to kill a dog.

At length her husband finding she made perpetual disturbances in the neighbourhood, thought it prudent to remove to Tottenham-court-road, where he carried on his former business; but not being as successful here as he could have wished, he took another house in Tyburn-road, since called Oxford-road.

Here he continued his practice of lending small sums of money on pledges, till having acquired a decent competency, he left off housekeeping, and hired lodgings near the same spot.—Thomas Billings, a journeyman taylor, and a supposed son of Mrs. Hayes's, by her former con-

nexions, lodged in the house with Mrs. Hayes, and the husband having gone into the country on business, his wife and this man indulged themselves in every species of extravagance.

On Hayes's return, some of his neighbours told him how his wife had been wasting his substance; on which he severely censured her conduct, and a quarrel arising between them, they proceeded from words to blows. It was commonly thought that she formed the resolution of murdering him at this time, as the quarrel happened only six weeks before his fatal exit.

She now began to sound the disposition of Billings, to whom she said it was impossible for her to live longer with her husband; and she urged all possible arguments to prevail on him to aid her in the commission of the murder, which Billings resisted for some time, but at length complied.

At this period Tho. Wood, an acquaintance of Mr. Hayes, arrived from the country, and as he was apprehensive of being impressed, Hayes kindly took him into his house, and promised to use his interest in procuring him some employment.

After a few days residence, Mrs. Hayes proposed to him the murder of her husband; but the man was shocked at the thought of destroying his friend and benefactor, and told her he would have no concern in so atrocious a deed.

However, she artfully urged that "he was an atheist, and it could be no crime to destroy a person who had no religion or goodness—that he was himself a murderer, having killed a man in the country, and likewise two of his own children, one of which he had buried under a pear tree, and the other under an apple tree." She likewise said, that her husband's death would put her into possession of 1500l. of the whole of which Wood should have the disposal, if he would assist her and Billings in the perpetration of the murder.

Wood went out of town a few days after this, and on his return found Mr. and Mrs. Hayes and Billings in company together, having drank till they had put themselves into the utmost apparent good humour. Wood sitting down at Hayes's request, the latter said they had drank a guinea's worth of liquor, but notwithstanding this, he was not drunk. A proposal was now made by Billings, that if Hayes could drink six bottles of mountain without being drunk, he would pay for it; but that Hayes should be the paymaster if the liquor made him drunk, or if he failed of drinking the quantity.

This proposal being agreed to, Wood, Billings, and Mrs. Hayes, went to a wine-vault to buy the wine, and on their way, this wicked woman reminded the men that the present would be a good opportunity of committing the murder, as her husband would be perfectly intoxicated. The mind of Wood was not yet wrought up to a proper pitch for the commission of a crime so atrocious as the murder of a man who had sheltered and protected him; and this too at a time when his mind must necessarily be unprepared for the launching into eternity.

Mrs. H. had therefore recourse to her former arguments, urging that it would be no sin to kill him; and Billings seconding all she said, and declaring he was ready to take a part in the horrid deed, Wood was at length prevailed on to be one of the execrable butchers.

Thus agreed, they went to the wine-vault, where Mrs. Hayes paid half a guinea for six bottles of wine, which being sent home by a porter, Mr. Hayes began to drink it, while his intentional murderers regaled themselves with beer. When he had taken a considerable quantity of the wine, he danced about the room like a man distracted, and at length finished the whole quantity; but not being then in an absolute state of stupefaction, his wife sent for another bottle, which he likewise drank, and then fell senseless on the floor. Having lain some little time in this condition, he got, with much difficulty, into another room, and threw himself on a bed.

When he was asleep, his wife told her associates that now was the time to execute their plan, as there was no fear of any resistance on his part. Accordingly, Billings went into the room with a hatchet, with which he struck Hayes so violently, that he fractured his skull.

At this time Hayes's feet hung off the bed, and the torture arising from the blow, made him stamp repeatedly on the floor, which being heard by Wood, he also went into the room, and taking the hatchet out of Billings's hand, gave the poor man two more blows, which effectually dispatched him.

A woman, named Springate, who lodged in the room over that where the murder was committed, hearing the noise occasioned by Hayes's stamping, imagined that the parties might have quarrelled in consequence of their intoxication: and going down stairs, she told Mrs. Hayes that the noise had awakened her husband, child, and herself. Catherine had a ready answer to this: she said some company had visited them, and were grown merry, but they were on the point of taking their leave; with which answer Mrs. Springate returned to her room well satisfied.

The murderers then consulted on the best manner of disposing of the body, so as most effectually to prevent detection. Mrs. Hayes proposed to cut off the head, because if the body was found whole, it would be more likely to be known. The villains agreeing to this proposition, she fetched a pail, lighted a candle, and all of them going into the room, the men drew the body partly off the bed, when Billings supported the head, while Wood, with his pocket-knife, cut it off, and the infamous woman held the pail to receive it, being as careful as possible that the floor might not be stained with the blood.

This being done, they poured the blood out of the pail into a sink by the window, and poured several pails of water after it; but notwithstanding all this care, Mrs.

Springate observed some congealed blood the next morning: though at that time she did not in the least suspect what had passed. It was likewise observed, that the marks of the blood were visible on the floor for some weeks afterwards, though Mrs. Hayes had scraped it with a knife and washed it.

When the head was cut off, this diabolical woman recommended the boiling it till the flesh should part from the bones; but the other parties thought this operation would take up too much time, and therefore advised the throwing it into the Thames, in expectation that it would be carried off by the tide, and sink.

This agreed to, the head was put into the pail, and Billings took it under his great-coat, being accompanied by Wood: but making a noise in going down stairs, Mrs. Springate called, and asked what was the matter; to which Mrs. Hayes answered, that her husband was going a journey, and with incredible dissimulation, she affected to take her leave of him, and as it was now past eleven, pretended great concern that he was under a necessity of going at so late an hour.

By this artifice Wood and Billings passed out of the house unnoticed, and went to Whitehall, where they intended to have thrown in the head; but the gates being shut, they went to a wharf near the horse-ferry, Westminster. Billings put down the pail, Wood threw the head into the Dock, expecting it would have been carried away by the stream; but at this time the tide was ebbing, and a lighterman, who was then in his vessel, heard something fall into the Dock, but it was too dark for him to distinguish objects.

The murderers having thus disposed of the head, went home, and were let in by Mrs. Hayes, without the knowledge of the lodgers. On the following morning, soon after day-break, as a watchman, named Robinson, was going off his stand, he saw the pail, and looking into the Dock observed the head of a man. Having procured some witnesses to this spectacle, they took out the head, and ob-

serving the pail to be bloody, concluded that it was brought therein from some distant part. The lighterman now said that he had heard something thrown into the dock: and the magistrates and parish officers having assembled, gave strict orders that the most diligent search should be made after the body, which however was not found till some time afterwards; for when the murderers had conversed together on the disposal of the body, Mrs. Hayes had proposed that it should be put into a box, and buried, and the other parties agreeing to this, she purchased a box, which, on being sent home, was found too little to contain it; on which she recommended the chopping off the legs and arms, which was done; but the box being still too small, the thighs were likewise cut off, and all the parts packed up together, and the box put by till night, when Wood and Billings took out the pieces of the mangled body, and putting them into two blankets, carried them out of the house unnoticed, and threw them into a pond near Marybone; which being done, they returned to their lodgings, and Mrs. Springate, who had still no suspicion of what had passed, opened the door for them.

In the interim the magistrates directed that the head should be washed clean, and the hair combed; after which it was put on a pole in the church-yard of St. Margaret, Westminster, that an opportunity might be afforded for its being viewed by the public. Orders were likewise given that the parish officers should attend this exhibition of the head, to take into custody any suspicious person who might discover signs of guilt on the sight of it. The high constable of Westminster, on a presumption that the body might, on the following night, be thrown where the head had been, gave private orders to the inferior constables, to attend during the night, and stop all coaches, or other carriages, or persons with burdens, coming near the spot, and examine if they could find the body, or any of the limbs.

The head being exposed on the pole, so excited the curiosity of the public, that immense crowds of people of

all ranks went to view it; and among the rest was a Mr. Bennet, apprentice to the king's organ-builder, who having looked at it with the greatest attention, said, he thought it was the head of Hayes, with whom he had been some time acquainted: and hereupon he went to Mrs. Hayes, and telling her his suspicions, desired she would go and take a view of the head. In answer hereto she said that her husband was in good health, and desired him to be cautious of what he said, as such a declaration might occasion him a great deal of trouble; on which, for the present, Bennet took no farther notice of the affair.

A journeyman taylor, named Patrick, who worked in Monmouth-street, having likewise taken a view of the head, told his master, on his return, that he was confident it was the head of Hayes; on which some other journeymen in the same shop, who had likewise known the deceased, went and saw it, and returned perfectly assured it was so.

As Billings worked at this very shop in Monmouth-street, one of these journeymen observed to him, that he must know the head, as he lodged in Hayes's house; but Billings said he had left him well in bed when he came to work in the morning, and therefore it could not belong to him.

On the following day Mrs. Hayes gave Wood a suit of clothes which had belonged to her husband, and sent him to Harrow on the Hill. As Wood was going down stairs with the bundle of clothes, Mrs. Springate asked him what he had got: to which Mrs. Hayes readily replied, a suit of clothes he had borrowed of an acquaintance.

On the second day after the commission of the murder Mrs. Hayes being visited by a Mrs. Longmore, the former asked what was the news of the town; when the latter said that the public conversation was wholly engrossed by the head which was fixed in St. Margaret's churchyard. Hereupon Catherine exclaimed against the wickedness of the times, and said she had been told that the body of a murdered woman had been found in the fields that day.

Wood coming from Harrow on the Hill on the following day, Catherine told him that the head was found, and giving him some other clothes that had belonged to her husband, and five shillings, said she would continue to supply him with money.

After the head had been exhibited four days, and no discovery made, a surgeon, named Westbrook, was desired to put it in a glass of spirits to prevent its putrifying, and keep it for the farther inspection of all who chose to take a view of it, which was accordingly done.

Soon after this Mrs. Hayes quitted her lodgings, and removed to the house of Mr. Jones, a distiller, paying Mrs. Springate's rent also at the former lodgings, and taking her with her. Wood and Billings likewise removed with her, whom she continued to supply with money, and employed herself principally in collecting cash that had been owing to her late husband.

A sister of Mr. Hayes's, who lived in the country, having married a Mr. Davies, Hayes had lent Davies some money, for which he had taken his bond: which bond Catherine finding among Mr. Hayes's papers, she employed a person to write a letter in the name of the deceased, demanding ten pounds in part of payment, and threatening a prosecution in case of refusal.

Mr. Hayes's mother being still living, and Davies unable to pay the money, he applied to the old gentlewoman for assistance, who agreed to pay the money on condition that the bond was sent into the country; and wrote to London, intimating her consent so to do, having no suspicion of the horrid transaction which had taken place.

In the mean time, incredible numbers of people resorted to see the head, and among the rest a poor woman from Kingsland, whose husband had been absent from the very time that the murder was perpetrated. After a minute survey of the head, she believed it was that of her husband, though she could not be absolutely positive. However, her suspicions were so strong, that strict search was made after the body, on a presumption that the clothes might help her to ascertain it.

Mr. Hayes not being visible for a considerable time, his friends could not help making inquiry after him. A Mr. Ashby, in particular, who had been on the most friendly terms with him, called on Mrs. Hayes, and demanded what was become of him. Catherine pretended to account for his absence by communicating the following intelligence, as a matter that must be kept profoundly secret:—"Some time ago (said she) he happened to have a dispute with a man, and from words they came to blows, so that Mr. Hayes killed him. The wife of the deceased made up the affair, on Mr Hayes's promising to pay her a certain annual allowance: but he not being able to make it good, she threatened to inform against him, on which he absconded."

This method of accounting for the absence of his friend was by no means satisfactory to Mr. Ashby, who asked her if the head that had been exposed on the pole was that of the man who had been killed by her husband. She readily answered in the negative, adding that the party had been buried entire; and that the widow had her husband's bond for the payment of fifteen pounds a year. Ashby inquiring to what part of the world Mr. Hayes was gone, she said to Portugal, in company with some gentlemen; but she had yet received no letter from him.

The whole of this story seemed highly improbable to Mr. Ashby, who went to a Mr. Longmore, a gentleman nearly related to Hayes, and it was agreed between them that Mr. Longmore should call on Catherine, and have some conversation: but not let her know that Ashby had been with him, for they supposed that by comparing the two accounts together, they might form a very probable judgment of the matter of fact.

Accordingly, Longmore went to Catherine, and inquired after her husband. In answer to his questions, she said she presumed Mr. Ashby had related the circumstance of his misfortune; but Longmore replied, that he had not seen Ashby for a considerable time, and expressed his hope that her husband was not imprisoned for debt. "No,

(she replied) it is much worse than that." "Why, (said Longmore) has he murdered any one?" To this she answered in the affirmative; and desiring him to walk into another room, told him almost the same story as she had done to Mr. Ashby, but instead of saying he was gone to Portugal, said he had retired to Hertfordshire, and, in fear of being attacked, had taken four pistols to defend himself.

It was now remarked by Mr. Longmore, that it was imprudent for him to travel thus armed, as he was liable to be taken up, on suspicion of being a highwayman, and if such a circumstance should happen, he would find it no easy matter to procure a discharge.

She allowed the justice of this remark, but said that Mr. Hayes commonly travelled in that manner. She likewise said, that he was once taken into custody, on suspicion of being a highwayman, and conducted to a magistrate, but a gentleman who was casually present happening to know him, gave bail for his appearance. To this Longmore observed, that the justice of peace must have exceeded his authority, for that the law required that two parties should bail a person charged on suspicion of having robbed on the highway.

In the course of conversation, Mr. Longmore asked her what sum of money her husband had in his possession. To which she replied, that he had seventeen shillings in his pocket, and about twenty-six guineas sewed within the lining of his coat. She added, that Mrs. Springate knew the truth of all these circumstances, which had induced her to pay that woman's rent at the former lodgings, and bring her away. Mrs. Springate having been interrogated by Longmore, averred the truth of all that Catherine had said, and added that Mr. Hayes was a very cruel husband, having behaved with remarkable severity to his wife: but Mr. Longmore said this must be false, for to his knowledge, he was remarkably tender and indulgent to her.

Longmore went immediately to Mr. Ashby, and said, that from the difference of the stories Catherine had told them,

he had little doubt but that poor Hayes was murdered. Hereupon they determined to go to Mr. Eaton, who was one of the life-guards, and nearly related to the deceased, and to communicate their suspicions to him, but Eaton happening to be absent from home, they agreed to go again to Westminster and survey the head with more care and attention than they had hitherto done.

On their arrival, the surgeon told them that a poor woman from Kingsland had, in part, owned the head as that of her husband, but she was not so absolutely certain as to swear that it was so, and that they were very welcome to take another view of it. This they did, and agreed in opinion that it was actually the head of Hayes.

On their return, therefore, they called at Eaton's house, and took him with them to dine at Mr. Longmore's, where the subject of conversation ran naturally on the supposed discovery they had made. A brother of Mr. Longmore, coming in at this juncture, listened to their conversation, and remarked that they proposed that Mr. Eaton should go to Mrs. Hayes, at the expiration of two or three days, and make inquiries after her husband, similar to those which had been made by the other gentlemen.

To this Langmore's brother urged his objections, observing, that as they had reason to think their suspicions so well founded, it would be very ill policy to lose any time, since the murderers would certainly effect an escape if they should hear that they were suspected: and as Wood and Billings were drinking with Mr. Hayes the last time he was seen, he advised that they should be immediately taken into custody.

This advice appeared so reasonable, that all the parties agreed to follow it; and going soon afterwards to Justice Lambert, they told him their suspicions, and the reasons on which they were founded. The magistrate immediately granted his warrant for the apprehension of Catherine Hayes, Thomas Wood, Thomas Billings, and Mary Springate, on suspicion of their having been guilty of the

murder of John Hayes: and Mr. Lambert, anxious that there should be no failure in the execution of the warrant, determined to attend in person.

Hereupon, having procured the assistance of two officers of the life-guards, and taking with him the several gentlemen who had given the information, they went to Mr. Jones's, the distiller, (Mrs. Hayes's lodgings) about nine o'clock at night.

As they were going up stairs without any ceremony, the distiller desired to know by what authority they made so free in his house; but Mr. Lambert informing him who he was, no farther opposition was made to their proceedings.

The magistrate going to the door of Mrs. Hayes's room, rapped with his cane, on which she said, "Who is there?" and he commanded her to open the door immediately, or it should be broke open. To this she replied, that she would open it as soon as she had put on her clothes: and she did so in little more than a minute, when the Justice ordered the parties present to take her into custody.

At this time, Billings was sitting on the side of the bed, bare-legged; on which Mr. Lambert asked if they had been sleeping together; to which Catherine replied, "No," and said, that Billings had been mending his stockings. On this the Justice observed, that *his sight must be extremely good, as there was neither fire nor candle in the room when they came to the door.* Some of the parties remaining below, to secure the prisoners, Mr. Longmore went up stairs with the Justice, and took Mrs. Springate into custody; and they were all conducted together to the house of Mr. Lambert.

This magistrate having examined the prisoners separately for a considerable time, and all of them positively persisting in their ignorance of any thing respecting the murder, they were separately committed for re-examination on the following day, before Mr. Lambert and other magistrates. Mrs. Springate was sent to the Gate-house,

Billings to New-Prison, and Mrs. Hayes to Tothill-fields Bridewell.

When the peace-officers, attended by Longmore, went the next day to fetch up Catherine to her examination, she earnestly desired to see the head: and it being thought prudent to grant her request, she was carried to the surgeon's, and no sooner was the head shewn to her, than she exclaimed, "Oh! it is my dear husband's head! It is my dear husband's head!" She now took the glass in her arms, and shed many tears while she embraced it.

Mr. Westbrook told her that he would take the head out of the glass, that she might have a more perfect view of it, and be certain that it was the same. The surgeon doing as he had said, she seemed to be greatly affected, and having kissed the head several times, she begged to be indulged with a lock of the hair: and on Mr. Westbrook expressing his apprehension that she had too much of his blood already, she fell into a fit: and on her recovery was conducted to Mr. Lambert's, to take her examination with the other parties.

On the morning of this day, as a gentleman and his servant were crossing the fields near Marybone, they observed something lying in a ditch, and taking a nearer view of it, they found that it consisted of some of the parts of a human body.

Shocked at the sight, the gentleman dispatched his servant to get assistance to investigate the affair farther; and some labouring men being procured, they dragged the pond, and found the other parts of the body wrapped in a blanket; but no head was to be found. A constable brought intelligence of this fact while Mrs. Hayes was under examination before the justices, a circumstance that contributed to strengthen the idea conceived of her guilt.

Notwithstanding this, she still persisted in her innocence: but the magistrates paying no regard to her declarations, committed her to Newgate for trial. Wood being at this time out of town, it was thought prudent to defer the far-

ther examination of Billings and Springate, till he should be taken into custody.

On the morning of the succeeding Sunday he came on horseback to the house where Mrs. Hayes had lodged where the murder was committed; when he was told that she had removed to Mr. Jones's. Accordingly he rode thither, and inquired for her; when the people knowing that he was one of the parties charged with the murder, were disposed to take him into custody: however, their fear of his having pistols prevented their doing so; but unwilling that such an atrocious offender should escape, they told him that Mrs. Hayes was gone to the Green Dragon, in King's-street, on a visit, (which house was kept by Mr. Longmore,) and they sent a person with him, to direct him to the place.

The brother of Longmore being at the door on his arrival, and knowing him well, pulled him from his horse, and accused him of being an accomplice in the murder. He was immediately delivered to the custody of some constables, who conducted him to the house of Justice Lambert, before whom he underwent an examination; but refusing to make any confession, he was sent to Tothill-fields Bridewell for farther examination.

On his arrival at the prison, he was informed that the body had been found: and not doubting but that the whole affair would come to light, he begged that he might be carried back to the Justice's house. This being made known to Mr. Lambert, he sent for the assistance of two other magistrates, and the prisoner being brought up, he acknowledged the particulars of the murder, and signed his confession.

It is thought that he entertained some hope of being admitted an evidence; but as his surrender was not voluntary, and as his accomplices were in custody, the magistrates told him he must abide the verdict of a jury. This wretched man owned, that since the perpetration of the crime, he had been terrified at the sight of every one he met, that he had not experienced a moment's peace,

being acquitted, and therefore resolved to put herself on her trial, in which she was encouraged by some people that she met with in Newgate.

The indictment being opened, and the witnesses heard, the jury, fully convinced of the commission of the fact, found her guilty.—The prisoners being brought to the bar to receive sentence, Mrs. Hayes entreated that she might not be burnt, according to the then law for petty treason, alledging that she was not guilty, as she did not strike the fatal blow; but she was informed by the court, that the sentence awarded by the law could not be dispensed with. Billings and Wood urged, that, having made so fully and free a confession, they hoped they should not be hung in chains: but to this they received no answer.

After conviction, the behaviour of Wood was uncommonly penitent and devout; but while in the condemned hole, he was seized with a violent fever, and being attended by a clergyman to assist him in his devotions, he confessed he was ready to suffer death, under every mark of ignominy, as some atonement for the atrocious crime he had committed: however, he died in prison, and thus defeated the final execution of the law.

At particular times Billings behaved with sincerity; but at others, prevaricated much in his answers to the questions put to him. On the whole, however, he fully confessed his guilt, acknowledged the justice of his sentence, and said no punishment could be adequate to the excess of the crime of which he had been guilty.

The behaviour of Mrs. Hayes was somewhat similar to her former conduct. Having an intention to destroy herself, she procured a phial of strong poison, which being casually tasted by a woman who was confined with her, it burnt her lips; on which she broke the phial, and therefore frustrated her design.

On the day of her death, she received the sacrament, and was drawn on a sledge to the place of execution. Billings was executed in the usual manner, and hung in

chains not far from the pond in which Mr. Hayes's body was found, in Marybone-fields.

When the wretched woman had finished her devotions, an iron chain was put round her body, with which she was fixed to a stake near the gallows. On these occasions, when women were burnt for petit treason, it was customary to strangle them, by means of a rope passed round the neck, and pulled by the executioner, so that they were dead before the flames reached the body. But this woman was literally burnt alive; for the executioner letting go the rope sooner than usual, in consequence of the flames reaching his hands, the fire burnt fiercely round her, and the spectators beheld her pushing the faggots from her, while she rent the air with her cries and lamentations. Other faggots were instantly thrown on her, but she survived amidst the flames for a considerable time, and her body was not perfectly reduced to ashes in less than three hours.

They suffered at Tyburn, May 9, 1726. Horrid and serious as the murder of Hayes was, it was notwithstanding rendered the subject of mirth by a humorous punster of those times, who, having very prudently concealed his name, published in the periodical prints the following ballad, to the tune of Chevy Chase:—

IN Tyburn Road a man there liv'd
A just and honest life;
And there he might have lived still,
If it had pleas'd his wife.

But she to vicious ways inclin'd,
A life most wicked led;
With tailors and with tinkers too,
She oft defil'd his bed.

Full twice a day to church he went,
And so devout would be;

Sure never was a saint on earth,
If that no saint was he!

This vex'd his wife unto the heart,
She was of wrath so full;
That finding no hole in his coat,
She pick'd one in his skull.

But then her heart 'gan to relent,
And griev'd she was full sore;
That quarter to him for to give,
She cut him into four.

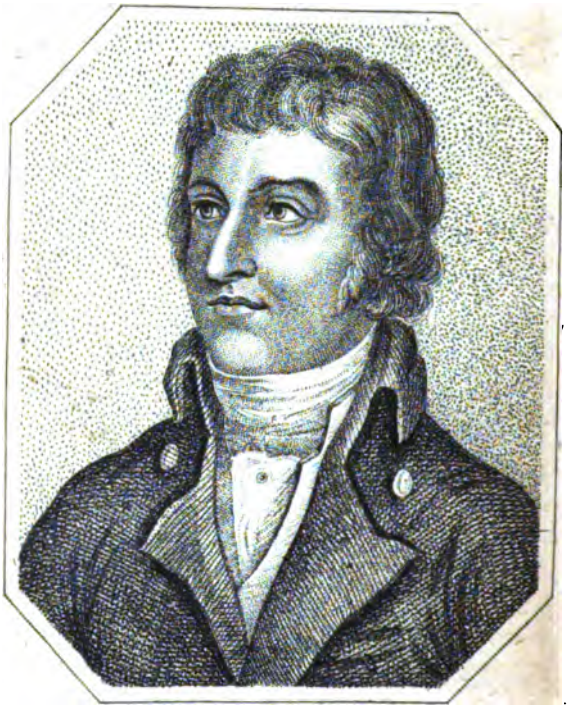
All in the dark, and dead of night,
These quarters she convey'd;
And in a ditch at Marybone,
His marrow-bones she laid.

His head at Westminster she threw,
All in the Thames so wide;
Says she, my dear, the wind sets fair,
And you may have the tide.

But heav'n, whose pow'r no limits know
On earth, or on the main,
Soon caus'd this head for to be thrown
Upon the land again.

This head being found, the justices
Their heads together laid;
And all agreed there must have been
Some body to this head.

But since no body could be found,
High mounted on a shelf;
They e'en set up the head to be
A witness for itself.



GEORGE BARRINGTON.

GEORGE WALDRON, alias BARRINGTON,

THE GENTLEMAN PICK-POCKET.

Several times convicted—sentenced twice to hard labour, on the Thames—and finally, on Sept. 27, 1798, transported to Botany Bay.

HUMAN nature, never perhaps, suffered greater degradation than in the person of that notorious character, so well known, as George Barrington. We could not, indeed, various as we have already shewn the shades of guilt, have expected to find, in the melancholy catalogue of crimes, a man, of excellent education, and brilliant talents, handsome in person, accomplished in manners, and in fine, with every assumed demeanour that constitutes a gentleman, descend to support himself by the most base and cowardly mode of thieving—that of picking pockets—yet just such a character was George Waldron, under the assumed name of Barrington.

During his career of vice, which his great ingenuity prolonged to several years duration, many catch-penny publications appeared, impudently asserting that their paltry sheets contained his genuine memoirs; and as each differed in their fabrications, Barrington made a more than proteus like appearance in the minds of such as might have unwarily read them.

They began their discordance, even with his birth, some averring that the town of Rush, others insisting that Kilkenny was his native place. Be it, therefore, as, indeed, we have ever done our duty, to give a finished sketch of this most extraordinary character.

George Waldron, (but as being best known, we shall call in future by his assumed name of Barrington) was born

at a village called Maymooth, in the county of Kildare, Ireland.

His father, Henry Waldron, was a working silversmith; and his mother, whose maiden name was Naith, was a mantua-maker, and occasionally a mid-wife. His parents, though not affluent, had him instructed in reading and writing, at an early age; afterwards, through the bounty of a medical gentleman, in the neighbourhood, he was taught common arithmetic, the elements of geography, and the English grammar.*

When sixteen years of age, he was noticed and patronized by a dignitary in the church of Ireland, who placed him at a free grammar school, and intended him for the university; however, he forfeited this gentleman's favour by his ill conduct at school, having, in a quarrel, stabbed one of his school fellows with a pen-knife. For this vindictive act he was well flogged; in consequence of which he ran away from school, in 1771, having previously found means to steal ten or twelve guineas from his master, and a gold repeating watch from his master's sister. He walked all night till he arrived at an obscure inn at Drogheda, where he happened to meet and become acquainted with a company of strolling players, whose manager was one John Price, an abandoned character; who having been convicted of a fraud in London, was an involuntary exile in Ireland, until the expiration of the term for which he was sentenced to be transported.

He now engaged our fugitive, who, in consequence, adopted the name of Barrington, as one of his performers, and who, it seems, became the hero of his company.—While performing the character of Jaffier, in "Venice Preserved," he made a conquest of the tender Belvidera, (Miss Egerton) and to the credit of Barrington it must be acknowledged that he took no mean advantage of her passion, but returned it with perfect sincerity.

The company being now reduced by the expenses of

---

* From this patronage, he afterwards pretended, occasionally, to be one of the medical profession.

travelling, &c. to extreme indigence, Price, the manager, prevailed upon Barrington to undertake the profession of a pick-pocket, which business he commenced in the summer of the year 1771, having then renounced the stage. He soon after lost his faithful Miss Egerton, who was drowned, in the eighteenth year of her age, in crossing the river Boyne, through the culpable negligence of a ferryman.

He then commenced what is called a gentleman pick-pocket, by affecting the airs and importance of a man of fashion; but was so much alarmed at the detection and conviction of his preceptor Price, (who was sentenced to transportation for seven years,) that he hastened to Dublin, where he practised his pilfering art during dark evenings.

At one of the races in the county of Carlow, he was detected picking the pocket of Lord B. but on restoring the property, this nobleman declined any prosecution, and Barrington accordingly left Ireland, and for the first time appeared in England in 1773. On his first visit to Ranelagh with a party, he left his friends, and picked the pockets of the Duke of L. and Sir W. of a considerable sum; and also took from a lady a watch, with all which he got off undiscovered and rejoined his friends.

In 1775, he visited the most celebrated watering places, particularly Brighton, and being supposed a gentleman of fortune and family, was noticed by persons of the first distinction.

On his return to London, he formed a connexion with one Lowe, and became a more daring pick-pocket. He went to court on the queen's birth-day, as a clergyman, and not only picked several pockets, but found means to deprive a nobleman of his diamond order, and retired from the place without suspicion. It is said that this booty was disposed of to a Dutch Jew.

Count Orlow, the Russian minister, being in one of the boxes of Drury-lane playhouse, was robbed of a gold snuff-box, set with diamonds, estimated to be worth an immense sum; and one of the count's attendants suspecting Barrington, seized him, and found the snuff-box in his possession.

watch dropped upon the floor. He was now obliged to pull off the greatest part of his clothes. He wore three pair of breeches, in one of the pockets of which was found a purse, containing thirteen guineas, and a bank note for 10l. made payable to himself.

In consequence of an advertisement inserted the next day in the newspapers, Mrs. Ironmonger came to Payne's house, and described the watch she had lost; and it proved to be that which had been concealed in Barrington's hair, and dropped on the floor when he took off his hat. She attended the examination of the prisoner, and having sworn that the watch produced by Payne was her property, was bound over to prosecute.

Upon his trial, Barrington made a long, an artful, and a plausible defence. He said, that upon leaving the church, he perceived the watch mentioned in the indictment lying upon the ground, and took it up, intending to advertise it the next day; that he was followed to Snow-hill by Payne and another constable, who apprehended him, and had, in all probability, seen him take up the watch. I reflected, said he, that how innocently soever I might have obtained the article in question, yet it might cause some censure; and no one would wonder, considering the unhappy predicament I stood in,* that I should conceal it as much as possible. The jury having pronounced the prisoner guilty, he addressed the court, earnestly supplicating that he might be permitted to enter into his Majesty's service, and promising to discharge his trust with fidelity and attention; or if he could not be indulged in that request, he wished that his sentence might be banishment for life from his Majesty's dominions.

The court informed him, that by an application to the throne, he might obtain a mitigation of his sentence, if his case was attended by such circumstances of extenuation as would justify him in humbly petitioning to be considered as an object of the royal favour.

---

* Alluding to his former conviction.

He requested that the money and bank-note might be returned. Hereupon the court observed, that, in consequence of his conviction, the property found on him when he was apprehended, became vested in the hands of the sheriffs of the city of London, who had discretionary power either to comply with, or reject his request.

He was again sentenced to labour on the Thames, for the space of five years, on Tuesday the 5th of April, 1778. About the middle of this year, he was accordingly removed to the hulks at Woolwich, where having attracted the notice of a gentleman, who exerted his influence in his favour, he again procured his release, on condition of his leaving England; to this Barrington gladly consented, and was generously supplied with money by this gentleman. He now went to Dublin, where he was shortly apprehended for picking the pocket of an Irish nobleman of his gold watch and money, at the theatre, but was acquitted for want of evidence.

Here, however, was his first display of elocution; for having received a serious admonition from the judge, he addressed the court with considerable animation, and enlarged with great ingenuity, upon what he termed the force of prejudice, insinuating that calumny had followed him from England to Ireland.

On his acquittal, however, he deemed it most prudent to leave Dublin; he therefore visited Edinburgh, where being suspected, he was obliged to decamp. He now returned to London, and braving danger, frequented the theatres, opera-house, pantheon, &c. but was at length taken into custody. Having been acquitted for want of evidence for the charge brought against him, he was unexpectedly detained for having returned to England in violation of the condition on which his Majesty was pleased to grant him a remission of his punishment, and was accordingly confined in Newgate, during the remainder of the time that he was originally to have served on the river Thames.

On the expiration of his captivity, he returned to his former practices, but with greater caution.

Barrington was detected, in St. Paul's Cathedral, picking the pocket of Mrs. Montague, of two guineas and seven shillings: he was took to the Crown, in St. Paul's Church-yard; where, asking leave of the constable that had him in custody, to go into the yard, he got over the wall into Paternoster-row, and effected an escape.

Soon afterwards he got into company with John Brown, Esq. of Brandford, and while he was in conversation with him, picked his pocket of forty guineas, a gold watch, and seals; with this booty he made shift to live till he was apprehended for robbing Elizabeth Ironmonger.

He was at length apprehended for picking the pocket of Mr. Le Mesurier, at Drury-lane play-house, but effected his escape from the constable; and while the lawyers were outlawing him, and the constables endeavouring to take him, he evaded detection by travelling in various disguises and characters through the northern counties of the kingdom; he visited the great towns as a quack doctor, clergyman, rider, &c. but was at last apprehended in Newcastle upon Tyne, and removed to London by a writ of Habeas Corpus.

He now employed counsel, and had the outlawry against him reversed. He was then tried for robbing Mr. Le Mesurier, and acquitted for the want of a material witness. Even this narrow escape did not intimidate this daring character; he had the effrontery to proceed from prison once more to his native country, Ireland. He soon, however, found Dublin by no means so rich a harvest as London, but he did not quit the former until the officers of justice were again at his heels.

It is now high time to come to the crime for which he was transported; but in so doing, we must, for want of room, pass over many nimble tricks and hair-breadth escapes of this very prince of pick-pockets.

He was at length indicted for picking the pocket of Henry Hare Townsend, Esq. of a gold watch. The fact was fully proved; yet in order to support our first observations on the superior abilities of this man, and which he equally displayed on all his different trials, we give the outline of his speech in his defence:

"May it please your Lordship, and you Gentlemen of the Jury,

"To favour me with your attention for a little time. The situation of every person who has the misfortune to stand here is extremely distressing and aukward; mine is so in a peculiar degree: If I am totally silent, it may be considered perhaps as a proof of guilt, and if I presume to offer those arguments which present themselves to my mind, in my defence, they may not, perhaps, be favoured with that attention which they might deserve; yet I by no means distrust the candour and benevolence of the Jury, and therefore I beg leave to proceed to state the circumstances of the case as they occur to me, not doubting but they will meet with some degree of credit, notwithstanding the various reports to my prejudice.

"It appears that Mr. Townsend being at the races at Barnet, was robbed of his watch; and that he turned to me, saying, your name is Barrington, and you have taken my watch. I told him he was right as to my name, but he accused me unjustly: however I would go any where with him; I was removed from thence to a stand, from whence the races were viewed; it consisted of two booths, and they were separated from each other with only a railing elbow high; and it is a great misfortune to me, gentlemen of the jury, that you were not able to observe the situation of those booths; for if you had, you would have found it nearly impossible that some circumstances which have come from the witnesses could be true; I was close to the railing that separated the two booths, and some person said, "Here is a watch!" This watch Mr. Townsend claimed, and said it was his. I was removed from thence to the Angel at Edmonton, where the examination took place, and I am very sorry to be under the necessity of observing that a very material difference has taken place in the depositions delivered that day before the magistrate in various respects. A witness, the coachman, positively declared that he did not see this watch in my hand, that he did not see me take it from my pocket, that he did not see

it drop from the person, but that he saw it on the ground, and he might have gone so far as to say he saw it fall; I took the liberty of asking him one question, Whether he had seen this watch in my hand, whether he had seen it fall from me? He declared he did not. I then asked him, whether he could take upon himself to swear, from the situation he stood in at the adjoining booth, that this watch might not have dropped from some other person. He declared he could not observe any such thing.—Gentlemen, with respect to the evidence of Kendrick, he made the same declaration then. Mr. Townsend has brought me here, under the charge of having committed felony; he has told you, Gentlemen of the Jury, that he lost a watch out of his pocket, and that pocket is a waistcoat pocket; that he was in a very extraordinary situation; that he was on the Race Ground, where certainly the greatest decorum is not always observed; and he was also in a situation which exposed him more to the pressure he complained of, than any other person; for instead of his horse being in the possession of his jockey or groom, he attended it himself; and I must beg leave to observe, Gentlemen of the Jury, that it is a custom where people bet money at races, to wish to see the horse immediately after the heat is over; so that the pressure which Mr. Townsend had, or what he thought he had from me, could not appear very extraordinary; and I am under the necessity of saying, his fancy has rather been improved on the occasion. With respect, Gentlemen, to the last witness that has appeared, I will say nothing on the occasion; that will rest entirely upon you. It was a circumstance, however, of a most extraordinary nature, that this person should never come forward till the present moment; and whether the contradictions and strange accounts she has given of herself, are such as to entitle her to any credit, particularly in a situation where the life or liberty of another is at stake—where much pains have been taken to defame, some pains may be surely allowed to abate that defamation. Gentlemen, that it has been the hard lot of some unhappy persons, to have been convicted of crimes they did really not commit, less through evidence than ill-natured report, is doubtless

certain: and doubtless there are many respectable persons now in Court, fully convinced of the truth of that observation. Such times, it is to be hoped, are past; I dread not such a conviction in my own person; I am well convinced of the noble nature of a British Court of Justice; the dignified and benign principles of its Judges; and the liberal and candid spirit of its Jurors.

"Gentlemen, life is the gift of God, and liberty its greatest blessing: the power of disposing of both, or either, is the greatest man can enjoy. It is also advantageous, that, great as that power is, it cannot be better placed than in the hands of an English Jury; for they will not exercise it like tyrants, who delight in blood, but like generous and brave men, who delight to spare rather than to destroy! and who not forgetting they are men themselves, lean, when they can, to the side of compassion. It may be thought, Gentlemen of the Jury, that I am applying to your passions, and if I had the power to do it, I would not fail to employ it: the passions animate the heart; to the passions we are indebted for the noblest actions; and to the passions we owe our dearest and finest feelings; and when it is considered, the mighty power you now possess, whatever leads to a cautious and tender discharge of it, must be thought of great consequence;—as long as the passions conduct us on the side of benevolence, they are our best, our safest, and our most friendly guides.

"Gentlemen of the Jury, Mr. Townsend has deposed that he lost his watch, but how, I trust, is by no means, clear; I trust, Gentlemen, you will consider the great, the almost impossibility, that having had the watch in my possession for so long a time, time sufficient to have concealed it in a variety of places, to have conveyed it to town, it should still be in my possession. You have heard from Mr. Townsend, that there was an interval of at least, half an hour between the time of loosing the watch, and my being taken into custody: there is something, Gentlemen, impossible in the circumstance; and, on the other hand, it has sometimes happened, that remorse, a generous remorse, has struck the minds of persons in such a manner,

as to have induced them to surrender themselves into the hands of justice, rather than an innocent person should suffer. It is not, therefore, I suppose, improbable, that if Mr. Townsend lost his watch, by an act of felony, the person who had the watch in his possession, feeling for the situation of an unhappy man, might be induced to place that watch on the ground. But it is by no means certain how Mr. Townsend lost his watch, whether by an act of felony, or whether by accident, it might have fallen into the hands of some other person, and that person feeling for my unhappy situation, might have been induced to restore it.

"I humbly hope that the circumstances of the case, are such as may induce a scrupulous jury to make a favourable decision; and I am very well convinced that you will not be led by any other circumstances than those of the present case; either from reports or former misfortunes, or by the fear of my falling into similar ones. I am now just thirty-two years of age, (shall be so next month); it is nearly half the life of man, it is not worth while being impatient to provide for the other half, so far as to do any thing unworthy.

"Gentlemen, in the course of my life I have suffered much distress, I have felt something of the vicissitudes of fortune, and now from observation, I am convinced, upon the whole, there is no joy but what arises from the practice of virtue, and consists in the felicity of a tranquil mind and a benevolent heart; sources of consolation which the most prosperous circumstances do not always furnish, and which may be felt under the most indigent.

"It will be my study, gentlemen, to possess them; nor will the heaviest affliction of poverty, pain, or disgrace, cause me to part with resolutions founded on the deepest reflection, and which will end but with life; I will perish on the pavement before I will deviate from them. For my own part, whatever your verdict may be, I trust I shall be enabled to meet it with firmness of mind; he indeed has little to fear from death, whose fame is tarnished, and who has endured the ceaseless abuse of unfeeling minds when Heaven accepts contrition, it receives into favour when it

pardons? but man, more cruel than his Maker, pursues his offending brother with unrelenting severity, and marks a deviation from rectitude with a never dying infamy, and with unceasing suspicion and reproach, which seem to exclude him from the pale of virtue.

"Gentlemen of the Jury, the thought, though death may appal the rich and prosperous, but on the other hand the unfortunate cannot have much to fear from it; yet the tenderness of nature cannot be quite subdued by the utmost degree of human resolution, and I cannot be insensible to the woes which must be felt by an affectionate companion, and an infant offspring, and there is besides, a principle in human nature, stronger even than the fear of death, and which can hardly fail to operate sometime or other in life; I mean the desire of good fame, under that laudable influence.

"Gentlemen, If I am acquitted, I will quickly retire to some distant land, where my name and misfortunes will be alike unknown; where harmless manners may shield me from the imputation of guilt, and where prejudice will not be liable to misrepresentation, and I do now assure you, Gentlemen of the Jury, that I feel a cheering hope, even at this awful moment, that the rest of my life will be so conducted, as to make me as much an object of esteem and applause, as I am now the unhappy object of censure and suspicion."

The Jury, however, instantly found him guilty.

On Wednesday, September 22, 1798, George Barrington was set to the bar.

Mr. Recorder. George Barrington: the sentence of the Court upon you, is, that you be transported for the term of seven years, to parts beyond the seas, to such place as his Majesty, with the advice of his Privy Council, shall think fit to declare and appoint.

To which Barrington replied,

"My Lord,

"I had a few words to say, why sentence of death should not be passed upon me; I had much to say, though I shall

say but little on the occasion. Notwithstanding I have the best opinion of his Lordship's candour, and have no wish or pleasure in casting a reflection on any person whatever; but I cannot help observing that it is the strange lot of some persons through life, that with the best wishes, the best endeavours, and the best intentions, they are not able to escape the envenomed tooth of calumny: whatever they say or do is so twisted and perverted from the reality, that they will meet with censures and misfortunes, where perhaps they were entitled to success and praise. The world, my Lord, has given me credit for much more abilities than I am conscious of possessing; but the world should also consider that the greatest abilities may be obstructed by the mercenary nature of some unfeeling minds, as to render them entirely useless to the possessor. Where was the generous and powerful man that would come forward and say, you have some abilities which might be of service to yourself and to others, but you have much to struggle with, I feel for your situation, and will place you in a condition to try the sincerity of your intentions; and as long as you act with diligence and fidelity, you shall not want for countenance and protection? But my Lord, the die is cast! I am prepared to meet the sentence of the court with respectful resignation, and the painful lot assigned me, I hope, with becoming resolution."—Mr. Barrington bowed and retired.

Thus have we a sad proof of the prostitution of abilities, which, well applied, would have done honour to the senate, the bar, or the pulpit; his words flowing with harmonious sentences, conveyed in tone, expression, and gesture, that touched every heart with pity, at beholding the finest fabric of man, thus wasting in corruption.

Barrington, as he had promised in his last speech, underwent his sentence with submission. His good conduct on his long passage to Botany-bay, had gained the friendship and confidence of his officers. He was the means of subduing a mutiny on board, by which he most likely saved many of his fellow-creatures from being massacred.

On his arrival at Port Jackson, he was appointed superintendant of convicts, at Paramatta; in which charge he behaved so as to make much compensation for his former life.

JOHN SMITH,

Convicted of Robbery, on the 5th of December, 1705.

THOUGH the crimes committed by this man were neither marked with particular atrocity, nor his life sufficiently remarkable for a place in these volumes; yet the circumstances attending his fate at the place of execution, are perhaps more singular than any we may have to record. He was the son of a farmer at Malton, about fifteen miles from the city of York, who bound him apprentice to a packer in London, with whom he served out his time, and afterwards worked as a journeyman. He then went to sea in a merchant-man, after which he entered on board a man of war, and was at the famous expedition against Vigo; but on the return from that expedition he was discharged.

He had not been long disengaged from the naval service, when he inlisted as a soldier in the regiment of guards, commanded by lord Cutts; but in this station he soon made bad connexions, and engaged with some of his dissolute companions as a house-breaker.

On the 5th of December, 1705, he was arraigned on four different indictments, on two of which he was convicted, and received sentence of death. While he lay under sentence, he seemed very little affected with his situation, absolutely depending on a reprieve through the interest of his friends.

However, an order came for his execution on the 24th day of the same month, in consequence of which he was

carried to Tyburn, where he performed his devotions, and was turned off in the usual manner; but when he had hung near fifteen minutes, the people present cried out, "A reprieve!" Hereupon the malefactor was cut down, and being conveyed to a house in the neighbourhood, he soon recovered, in consequence of bleeding and other proper applications.

When he perfectly recovered his senses, he was asked, what were his feelings at the time of execution; to which he repeatedly replied, in substance, as follows: "That "when he was turned off, he, for some time, was sensible "of very great pain, occasioned by the weight of his body, "and felt his spirits in a strange commotion, violently "pressing upwards: that having forced their way to his "head, he, as it were, saw a great blaze, or glaring light, "which seemed to go out at his eyes with a flash, and then "he lost all sense of pain. That after he was cut down, "and began to come to himself, the blood and spirits, "forcing themselves into their former channels, put him, "by a sort of pricking or shooting, to such intolerable pain "that he could have wished those hanged who had cut him "down." From this circumstance he was called "Half-hanged Smith."

After this narrow escape from the grave, Smith pleaded to his pardon on the 20th of February; yet such was his propensity to evil deeds, that he returned to his former practices, and being again apprehended, was tried at the Old Bailey for house-breaking; but some difficulties arising in the case, the jury brought in a special verdict, in consequence of which the affair was left to the opinion of the twelve judges, who determined in favour of the prisoner.

After this second extraordinary escape, he was a third time indicted; but the prosecutor happening to die before the day of trial, he once more obtained that liberty which his conduct shewed he had not deserved.

We have no account what became of this man after this third remarkable incident in his favour: but Christian charity inclines us to hope that he made a proper use of the singular dispensations of Providence evidenced in his own person.

When once the mind has consented to the commission of sin, it is hard to be reclaimed. The memory of the pangs of an ignominious death could not deter this man from following the evil course he had begun. Thus, by giving way to small propensities, we imperceptibly go on to enormities; which lead us to a shameful fate. Let us, therefore, at once resolve never to depart from the path of rectitude.

ROGER LOWEN,

Convicted of Murder, and executed at Turnham Green, on the 25th of October, 1706.

WAS a native of Hanover, where he was born about the year 1667, and educated in the principles of the Lutheran religion. His father being lautsman to the duke of Zell, that prince sent young Lowen into France, to obtain the qualifications of a gentleman, and, on his return from his travels, he was one of the pages under the duke's master of the horse.

Coming over to England when he was between twenty and thirty years of age, the duke of Shrewsbury patronized him, and procured him a place. Having thus obtained something like a settlement, he married a young English woman, with whom he lived in an affectionate manner for a considerable time; but in the year 1697, on his going abroad to attend King William at the treaty of Ryswick, he left Mrs. Lowen with her cousin, who was married to Mr. Richard Lloyd, of Turnham Green.

When Lowen returned from Holland, he became, with what justice we cannot say, extremely jealous of his wife, and he pretended to have received incontestible proof of her criminal conversation with Mr. Lloyd, for the murder of

whom he was indicted at the Old Bailey, on the 20th of September, 1706, and was tried by a Jury composed equally of Englishmen and foreigners.

In the course of the evidence it appeared, that on the evening of the day on which the murder was committed, Lowen invited Lloyd and his wife to dine with him on the following day; that Mr. Lloyd being obliged to go to Acton, did not come very early; at which Lowen expressed a considerable degree of uneasiness; that when he came, Lowen introduced him into the parlour, with great apparent civility. That Mr. Lloyd put his sword in a corner of the room; some time after which Lowen invited him into the garden, to see his plants, after which they came together into the house, appearing to be good friends, and Lowen desired his wife to hasten the dinner; that while she went to obey his directions, Lowen drew Mr. Lloyd's sword a little way out of the scabbard, as if admiring it, and asked who was his cutler? and that while the deceased stood with his hands behind him, Lowen, stamping with his foot, drew the sword quite out of the scabbard, and stabbed Mr. Lloyd through the back; on which his wife (who was present at this horrid transaction) said to him, "Speak to me, my dear;" but he was unable to do so; and having lifted up his eyes, groaned twice, and then expired.

Mr. Hawley, a justice of peace in the neighbourhood passing by at the instant, Mrs. Lloyd acquainted him with what had happened; on which he examined the prisoner, who confessed his intention of having committed the murder sooner, and was only concerned lest he had not killed Mr. Lloyd.

The particulars respecting the murder being proved to the satisfaction of the jury, Lowen was convicted, and received sentence of death; in consequence of which he was hanged at Turnham Green, on the 25th of October, 1706.

While he lay under sentence of death, he was attended by Messrs. Idzardi and Ruperti, two divines of his own country, who were assiduous to convince him of the atrociousness of the crime which he had committed; and

he became a sincere penitent, confessing with his last breath the crime he had committed in shedding innocent blood.

Jealousy is the most dangerous passion of the mind. It generally proceeds from the extravagance of love. That jealousy which is moved by fond and sincere affection may be distinguished from the extravagance resulting from meanness and suspicion. When proceeding from real love, it must be owing to the suspicion of levity in the object, which instantly conjures up a thousand frightful phantoms. We fear that the charms which have subdued us, have made the same impression on the heart of another. This is generally the foundation of jealousy in men, and is, by the immortal Shakespeare, called "a green-eyed monster," which, once gaining ascendency,

"Farewel the tranquil mind—farewel content."

JOHN HERMAN BRIAN,

INCENDIARY.

Executed October 24, 1707, in St. James's Street, for Setting Fire to the House of Mr. Persuade.

THE crime for which this man suffered is defined by the law to be ARSON, or ARSONRY; that is, wilfully setting fire to another person's house, whether by day or by night.

It is in this case a capital offence; but if a man burns his own house, without injuring any other, it is only a misdemeanor, punishable by fine, imprisonment, or the pillory.

By the 23d of Henry the VIII. cap. 1, the capital part of the offence is extended to persons (whether principals

or accessaries) burning dwelling-houses; or barns wherein corn is deposited; and by the 43d of Elizabeth, cap. 13, burning barns or stacks of corn, in the four northern counties, is also made felony, without benefit of clergy.

By the 22d and 23d of Car. II. cap. 7, it is made felony to set fire to any stack of corn, hay, or grain; or other outbuildings, or kilns, maliciously, in the night time; punishable with transportation for seven years.

By the 1st George I. cap. 48, it is also made single felony to set fire to any wood, underwood, or coppice.

Other burnings are made punishable with death, without benefit of clergy, viz. setting fire to any house, barn, or outhouse, or to any hovel, cock, mow, or stack of corn, straw, hay, or wood; or the rescuing any such offender: 9 George I. cap. 22.—Setting fire to a coal mine: 10 George II. cap. 32. Burning, or setting fire to any windmill, water-mill, or other mill; (as also pulling down the same:) 9 George III. cap. 29; but the offender must be prosecuted within eighteen months. Burning any ship, to the prejudice of the owners, freighters, or underwriters: 22 and 23 Charles II. cap. 11; 1 Anne, stat. 2. cap. 9; 4 George I. cap. 12. Burning the king's ships of war afloat, or building; or the dock-yards, or any of the buildings, arsenals, or stores therein; 12 George III. cap. 24. And finally, threatening by anonymous or fictitious letters to burn houses, barns, &c. is by the act 27 George II. cap. 15, also made felony, without benefit of clergy.

John Herman Brian was a native of Dully, a village in the bailiwick of Morge, in the Canton of Berne, in Switzerland, where he was born about the year 1683. He left Switzerland while very young, and went to Geneva, where he lived in the service of a gentleman above four years, and then made the tour of Italy with a person of fortune. On his arrival in England, he lived in several reputable families for the space of about three years, and last of all, for about two months, in that of Mr. Persuade, when, being discharged, in about two days after he broke open, plundered, and burned his dwelling-house, for which he was brought to trial on the 16th of October, 1707. It appeared

in evidence, that the house was made fast about ten at night, when the family went to bed; that Mrs. Persuade had locked up her gold watch, etwee case, chain, seventeen guineas, &c. that waking about three in the morning she smelt a fire, on which she left her chamber, and found a lighted flambeaux in the passage, which had burnt the boards; then opening a parlour door the flames spread with such rapidity, that the family had only time to preserve their lives. A poor woman going by at the time, and seeing the smoke, knocked at the door to alarm the family, and at that instant saw a man come over the wall, (supposed to be Brian) who said to her, "Damn you, are you drunk? What do you do here, knocking at people's doors at this time?" and immediately he went away. It likewise came out in evidence that the prisoner had offered to sell the etwee case to Messrs. Stevenson and Acton, goldsmiths, for eight pounds; but they stopped it on suspicion that it was stolen, and, on inquiry, found to whom it belonged. The prisoner afterwards returning to demand it, they took him into custody, and being carried before a magistrate, and searched, a dagger and two pistols were found on him. It appeared from the testimony of other evidence, that when the prisoner quitted the service of Mr. Persuade, he took a lodging in Soho, but was not at home on the night that the facts were committed; and at noon on the following day, he left this lodging and took another in Spitalfields, to which he conveyed a trunk, a box, and a bundle, which were found to contain part of Mr. Persuade's effects. It likewise appeared, that he had sold a fowling-piece and two pistols, which were stolen from Mr. Persuade. On his trial he denied every thing that was alledged against him; asserting, that he bought all the goods of a stranger; but as he adduced nothing like proof in support of this assertion, the jury found him guilty without the least hesitation. While under sentence of death, he steadily denied being guilty of the offences of which he had been convicted, and reflected on the prosecutor, magistrates, witnesses and jury; persisting in a declaration of his innocence to the last moment of his life; however, the circumstances against

him were so unusually strong, that not the least credit could be given to his declaration. He made repeated attempts to escape out of Newgate, by unscrewing and filing off his irons; but being detected, he was properly secured till the time of his execution; and when asked by the ordinary of Newgate, how he could waste his precious time in such fruitless attempts, he answered, that "Life was sweet, and that any other man, as well as himself, would endeavour to save it if he could." He suffered in St. James's street, before Mr. Persuade's house, on the 24th of October, 1707, and was hung in chains near the gravel-pits, at Acton.

JOHN HALL,

HOUSE-BREAKER.

Executed at Tyburn on the 17th of December, 1707.

FROM the humble avocation of a chimney-sweeper, this fellow became a notorious and daring thief.

He was remarkably distinguished in his time, on account of the number and variety of robberies in which he was concerned; and few thieves have been more the subject of public conversation.

Hall's parents were very poor people, living in Bishop's-head-court, Gray's-Inn-lane, who put him out to a chimney-sweeper; but he had not been long in this employment, before he quitted it, and commenced pick-pocket; and was accounted very dexterous in that profession; but notwithstanding this dexterity, he was frequently detected, and treated in the usual manner, by ducking in the horse-pond: he was likewise often sent to Bridewell, as a punishment for these offences.

Notwithstanding frequent punishments of this nature, he commenced shop-lifter, and, in the month of January, 1628, he was convicted at the Old Baily of stealing a pair of shoes; for which he was whipped at the cart's tail; but he had no sooner obtained his liberty, than he commenced house-breaker; and being convicted of breaking open the house of Jonathan P tail, he was sentenced to be hanged in the year 1700, but was afterwards pardoned on condition of transporting himself within six months to some of the American plantations.

In consequence hereof he entered on board a ship, from which, however, he soon deserted, and engaged with his old accomplices; and they now took up the trade of robbing country waggons, and stealing portmanteaus from behind coaches. For an offence of this latter kind, Hall was tried and convicted, in the year 1702, and being first burnt on the cheek, was committed close prisoner to Bridewell for two years.

Hall had no sooner obtained his liberty, than he joined with Stephen Bunce, Dick Low, and others of his dissolute companions, in breaking open the house of a baker, at Hackney; which burglary was attended with the following circumstances:

Having broke into the house soon after midnight, and the journeyman and apprentice being at work, the robbers tied them neck and heels, and threw them into the kneading-trough, and one of the villains stood over them with a drawn sword, while the other went up stairs to rob the house; but the baker being unwilling to tell them where the money was, Hall seized a young child, a grand-daughter of the old people, and swore he would thrust her into the oven if they did not make the discovery. Terrified at this circumstance, the old man told him where they might find his money, in consequence of which they robbed him of about seventy pounds.

Notwithstanding this singular robbery was the subject of much conversation, yet the perpetrators of it were not taken into custody. Soon afterwards, the house of Francis Saunders, a chairman, near St. James's, was broke open; and Saunders

being informed that this robbery was committed by Hall and his companions, he observed these very men, as he was attending at St. James's gate, about three in the morning; and informing the watch-men, they pursued them; on which Hall and one of his accomplices fired at a watchman, who was wounded in the thigh. Hall escaped; his companions were apprehended and tried, but acquitted for want of evidence.

Hall was in custody in 1705, for breaking open the house of Richard Bartholomew; but he had been so frequently at the Old Baily, that he was afraid of being tried by his name, and therefore changed it to that of Price; but the evidence not being sufficient to convict him, he was again acquitted. Having obtained his liberty, he returned to his former practices, and in October, 1706, was indicted for stealing a handkerchief, in company with Arthur Chambers, but once more discharged in defect of evidence.

Repeated as these excesses were, they made no impression on the mind of Hall, who was soon afterwards taken into custody, for a fact which he had reason to think would have put an end to his wicked career, wherefore he became an evidence against chambers, Bell, and Fitch, three of his accomplices, and thus once more preserved his life.

After this he was concerned in breaking open the house of Captain Guyon, near Stepney, in company with Richard Low and Stephen Bunoe, and stealing a considerable quantity of plate and other effects.

Of this offence the parties were found guilty, and were executed at Tyburn, on the 17th of December, 1707.

EDWARD BURNWORTH, WILLIAM BLEWITT, EMANUEL DICKENSON, THOMAS BERRY, JOHN LEGEE, JOHN HIGGS, AND ——— MARJORAM,

A GANG OF MURDERERS AND DARING ROBBERS.

NOTWITHSTANDING Jonathan Wild, in the early career of his villainy, had been very active in bringing a number of thieves to condign punishment, yet London and its environs were never more infested with common depredators than about this time.

Burnworth and his gang seem to have risen to notoriety on the downfal of Wild; for about the time of his apprehension, they were committing the most daring robberies; but they, however, did not survive him quite a single year. The captain of this gang was born in Moor-fields, London. His father was a painter, and placed his son Edward apprentice to a buckle-maker in Grub-street; in which situation he did not remain long, having given himself up to the company of loose and disorderly young men. His initiation into vicious habits took place at an infamous place of low diversion, called the Ring, near his father's place of residence, and where, it appears, he excelled in the vulgar art of cudgel playing. He soon commenced pick-pocket, and through the gradations in villainy, which we have already described, became a general thief. As a pick-pocket, he frequented every public place in and near the city. He used to steal snuff-boxes, watches, handkerchiefs, pocket-books, &c. At length he was apprehended, and lodged in New Prison, from which he found means to escape, and renewed his former occupation, but with more circumspection, usually lounging about the fields near London during the day tme, and returning to town at night in search of prey. He was a remarkable daring villian, and constantly carried pistols about him, to aid him to make a

readier escape in case of detection. Going into a public house in the Old Bailey, the landlord told him, that Quilt Arnold, one of Jonathan Wild's men, who had been seeking him some days, was then in the house. Hereupon Burnworth went backwards to a room where Arnold was sitting alone; and presenting a pistol, upbraided him for endeavouring to injure his old acquaintance; Arnold having been a brother thief. Burnworth then called for a glass of brandy, and putting some gunpowder in it, compelled the other to drink it on his knees, and swear that he would never seek for him in future. He was once whipped at the cart's tail for a theft. William Blewitt, another of his gang, was the son of poor parents near Cripplegate, who apprenticed him to a glover; but before he had served above three years of his time, he associated with ill company, and became a pick-pocket and house-breaker. Having been apprehended and lodged in Newgate, he was tried for an offence, of which he was convicted, and sentenced to be transported for seven years; in consequence of which he was put on board a ship in the river, in company with several other felons. Some of these had procured saws and files to be concealed in cakes of gingerbread, and by means of these instruments they hoped to effect their escape before the ship sailed to any distance. Blewitt having discovered their intention, disclosed it to the captain of the vessel, who seized the implements, and gave Blewitt his liberty, as a reward for the information.* But he was no sooner at large, than he returned to his old practices, in consequence of which he was apprehended, and committed to Newgate. At the following sessions he was indicted for returning from transportation: and being convicted, received sentence of death; but he pleaded the service he had done by preventing the escape of the prisoners in the river: on which he was reprieved till the return of the vessel from America: when his allegations being found to be true, he was pardoned, on

* This was assuming a power which was never given to any captain of a vessel.

the condition of transporting himself. This, however, he neglected to do; but got into the company of Burnworth, Berry, Legee, and Higgs, the three last having been thieves from their infancy. At this time there was a gin-shop kept in the Mint, Southwark, by a man named Ball, whose character was similar to that of Jonathan Wild. Ball, who had been himself a thief, threatened that he would cause Burnworth to be taken into custody. The latter, hearing of this circumstance, resolved on the murder of Ball, and engaged his accomplices in the execution of the plan. Previous to this, while they were drinking at Islington, Burnworth proposed to break open and rob the house of a magistrate in Clerkenwell, who had distinguished himself by his diligence in causing thieves to be apprehended; and this robbery was proposed more for motives of revenge than of gain. They soon executed their design, and robbed the house of what they thought a large quantity of plate, which they carried to Copenhagen-house, at that time a public-house of ill fame; but, on examining the supposed treasure, they discovered that it was only brass covered with silver, on which they threw it into the New River. The following day, while they were carousing, one of their associates came and informed them that some peace-officers were waiting for them in Chick-lane, a place they greatly frequented. Thus informed, they kept in a body, and concealed their pistols and cutlasses under their clothes. On the approach of evening they ventured towards London, and having got as far as Turnmill-street, the keeper of Clerkenwell, Bridewell, happening to see them, called to Burnworth and said he wanted to speak with him. Burnworth hesitated; but the other assuring him that he intended no injury, and the thief being confident that his associates would not desert him, swore he did not regard the keeper, whom he advanced to meet with the pistol in his hand, the other rogues waiting on the opposite side of the street, armed with cutlasses and pistols. This singular spectacle attracting the attention of the populace, a considerable crowd soon gathered round them, on which Burnworth joined his companions, who kept together, and facing the

people, retired in a body, presenting their pistols, and swearing that they would fire on any one who should offer to molest them. Thus they retreated as far as Battlebridge, and then making a circle round the fields, entered London by a different avenue, and going to Blackfriars, took a boat and crossed the Thames. Having landed at the Bankside, Southwark, they went to a place called the Music-house, which was at that time much frequented by people of dissolute characters. Here they continued drinking some time, and then went into St. George's fields, where Burnworth re-proposed the murder of Ball, on account of the threat that he had issued. All the company readily agreed, except Higgs, who said he would have no concern in murder; however, the others forced him with them: it was dark when they arrived at Ball's house, and Higgs waited at the door while the rest went in. Ball's wife told them he was at an alehouse in the neighbourhood, but she would go and call him, which she accordingly did; he no sooner got to the door of his own house, than Burnworth seized him and dragged him in, reproaching him with treachery, in intending to betray his old acquaintance. As these desperadoes were armed with pistols, Ball trembled with just apprehension for his life, and dropping on his knees, earnestly entreated that they would not murder him; but Burnworth swearing that he should never obtain the reward for betraying him, shot him dead on the spot, while thus begging for his life. The murder was no sooner perpetrated, than they all sallied forth into the street; when Blewitt, supposing that the report of the pistol might alarm the neighbours, fired another into the air, saying, "We are now safe in town, and there is no fear of rogues;" thereby intimating that they had come out of the country, whither they had taken pistols for their protection. Higgs had left his companions as soon as the murder was committed; but on their way to the Falcon Stairs, where they intended to take a boat, they met with him again, when Burnworth proposed to murder him as they had done Ball; but Marjoram, an old acquaintance, whom they had just met, interceded for his life, which was granted, on condition

that, for the future, he should behave with greater courage. They now crossed the Thames, and went to the Boar's-head tavern, in Smithfield, where, not being known, they were under no apprehension of detection. Here they remained till ten at night, and then parted in different gangs, to commit separate robberies. Some days after this, Dickenson, Berry, and Blewitt, having obtained a large booty, went to Harwich, and sailed in the packet boat to Holland. In the mean time, Higgs went to Portsmouth, and entered on board the Monmouth man of war; but his brother happening to meet the mate of a ship in London, gave him a letter to deliver to him. The mate going accidentally into a public-house in Smithfield, heard the name of Higgs mentioned by some people who were talking of the murder, among whom was a watchman, whom the mate told that he had a letter to carry to one Higgs. On this the watchman went to the under secretary of state, and mentioned what he had heard and suspected. Hereupon the watchman, and two of the king's messengers, being dispatched to Portsmouth, Higgs was taken into custody, brought to London, and committed to Newgate. Still Burnworth, and the rest of his associates, continued to defy the laws, in the most open manner. Having stopped the earl of Harborough's chair, during broad day-light, in Piccadilly, one of the chairmen pulled out a pole of the chair, and knocked down one of the villains, while the earl came out, drew his sword, and put the rest to flight: but not before they had raised their wounded companion, whom they took off with them. The number of daring robberies which were now daily committed were so alarming, that the king issued a proclamation for apprehending the offenders, and a pardon was offered to any one who would impeach his accomplices, except Burnworth, who was justly considered as the principal of the gang. Marjoram happened to be drinking at a public-house in White-cross-street one night, when a gentleman went in and read the royal proclamation. The company present knew nothing of Marjoram; but he apprehending that some of his accomplices would become an evidence, if he did not, applied to a constable in Smithfield, and desired him to take him before

the Lord Mayor. By this time the evening was far advanced, on which Marjoram was lodged in the Compter for that night, and being taken to Guildhall the next day, he discovered all the circumstances that he knew; and informing the Lord Mayor that Legee lodged in Whitecross-street, he was almost immediately apprehended, and committed to Newgate the same day. The circumstance of Marjoram having turned evidence being now the public topic, John Barton, a fellow who had been sometime connected with Burnworth and his gang, provided a loaded pistol, and placing himself near Goldsmith's-hall, took an opportunity, when the officers were conducting Marjoram before the Lord Mayor, to fire at him; but Marjoram observing him advancing, stooped down, so that the ball grazed his back only. The suddenness of this action, and the surprize it occasioned, gave Barton an opportunity of effecting his escape. About this time one Wilson, who had likewise belonged to the gang, quitted London, but being apprehended about two years afterwards, he was hanged at Kingston in Surry. In the mean time, Burnworth continued at large, committing depredations on the public, and appearing openly in the streets, notwithstanding the proclamation issued to apprehend him. He broke open the house of a distiller in Clare-market, and carried off a great number of bank-notes; in consequence of which another proclamation was issued, and three hundred pounds were offered for taking him into custody; notwithstanding he still appeared at large, and gave the following, among other proofs of his audacity. Sitting down at the door of a public-house, in Holborn, where he was well known, he called for a pint of beer and drank it, holding a pistol in hand, by way of protection; he then paid for his beer, and went off with the greatest apparent unconcern. At this time he kept company with two infamous women, one of whom was the wife of a man named Leonard, who having belonged to the gang, thought to recommend himself to mercy, by the apprehension of Burnworth. Having told his wife what he intended, she informed some magistrates of the proposed plan, and they sent six men to assist in carrying it into execution. Shrove Tuesday being the day appointed, the men

waited at a public-house till they should receive a hint to proceed. About six in the evening Burnworth went to the lodgings of the women, to which there was a back-door that opened into a yard. It was proposed to have pancakes for supper, and while one of the women was frying them, the other went to the public-house for some beer, and on her return pretended to bolt the door, but designedly missed the staple; at that moment six men rushed in, and seized Burnworth before he had time to make any resistance, though he had a pistol in the pocket of his great coat. Being carried before three magistrates, he was committed to Newgate; but his accomplices was so infamously daring, as to attempt the murder of the woman who had occasioned his apprehension; a pistol was fired at her as she was entering the door of her own house, which being communicated to the magistrates, constables were appointed to watch nightly for her protection, till the desperadoes gave over their attempts. Burnworth, while in Newgate, projected the following scheme of escape: having been furnished with an iron crow, he engaged some of the prisoners, who assisted him in pulling stones out of the wall, while others sung psalms, that the keepers might not hear what they were doing. On the day following this transaction, which was carried on during the night, five condemned criminals were to be executed; but when the gaolers came to take them out, there was such an immense quantity of stones and rubbish to remove, that it was two o'clock in the afternoon, before the criminals could be got out of their cells. This scheme of Burnworth occasioned his closer confinement. He was removed into a room, known by the name of the bilboes, and loaded with a pair of the heaviest irons in the prison: but he intended to have made his escape even from this place; and being furnished with files and saws from some of his acquaintance, he worked his way through a wall into a room in which were some women prisoners, one of whom acquainting the keeper with what had happened, Burnworth was chained to the floor of the condemned hold. Application was made to the secretary of state, to take measures for the apprehension of Berry, Dickenson, and Blewitt, who had gone over to Holland;

and hereupon instructions were sent to the English ambassador at the Hague, empowering him to request of the States General, that the offenders might be delivered up to Justice, if found any where within their jurisdiction. The ambassador, on receiving the necessary instructions, made the application, and orders were issued accordingly, in consequence of which Blewitt was apprehended in Rotterdam, but Dickenson and Berry had taken refuge on board a ship at the Brill. Blewitt was lodged in the state-house prison, and then the officers who took him went immediately on board the ship, and seized his two accomplices, whom they brought to the same place of confinement. They were chained to the floor till the English ambassador requested permission to send them home, which being readily obtained they were guarded to the packet-boat by a party of soldiers, and were chained together as soon as they were put on board. When they reached the Nore, they were met by two of the king's messengers, who conducted them up the river. On the arrival of the vessel, they were put into a boat opposite the Tower, which was guarded by three other boats, in each of which was a corporal and several soldiers. In this manner they were conducted to Westminster, where they were examined by two magistrates, who committed them to Newgate, to which they were escorted by a party of the foot-guards. On sight of Burnworth they seemed to pity his situation, while he, in a hardened manner, expressed his happiness at their safe arrival from Holland. On the approach of the ensuing assizes for the county of Surry, they were handcuffed, put into a waggon, and in this manner a party of dragoons conducted them to Kingston. Their insolence on leaving Newgate was unparalleled,—they told the spectators that it would become them to treat gentlemen of their profession with respect, especially as they were going a journey; and likewise said to the dragoons, that they expected to be protected from injury on the road; and during their journey they behaved with great indifference, throwing money among the populace, and diverting themselves by seeing them scramble for it. A boy having picked up a halfpenny, one of a handful which Blewitt had thrown

among the people, told him that he would keep that half-penny, and have his name engraved on it, as sure as he would be hanged at Kingston, on which Blewitt gave him a shilling to pay the expense of engraving, and enjoined him to keep his promise, which, it is affirmed, the boy actually did. On their arrival at Kingston, they were put in the prison called the Stockhouse, where they were chained to the floor; and on the following day, bills of indictment were found against them. They were brought up for trial before Lord Chief Justice Raymond, and Judge Denton, but some articles having been taken from Burnworth when he was apprehended, he refused to plead unless they were restored to him. The judges made use of every argument to prevail on him to plead, but in vain; in consequence of which sentence was passed that he should be pressed to death. Hereupon he was taken back to the Stockhouse, where he bore the weight of one hundred, three quarters, and two pounds, on his breast. The high-sheriff, who attended him on this occasion, used every argument to prevail on him to plead, to which he consented, after bearing the weight an hour and three minutes, during great part of which time he endeavoured to kill himself, by striking his head against the floor. Being brought into court, he was tried, and convicted with his companions. They were no sooner convicted, than orders were given for their being chained to the floor; but in this deplorable situation they diverted themselves, by recounting some particulars of their robberies, to such persons whose curiosity induced them to visit the gaol. Some people wished they would leave an account of their robberies; but Burnworth said the particulars could not be contained in an hundred sheets of paper. On passing sentence the learned judge most earnestly entreated them to prepare for another world, as their time in the present must necessarily be short. They begged that their friends might visit them; and this being complied with, files and saws were conveyed to them, to assist them in their escape. Their plan was to have mixed opium in wine, to have made the keepers sleep; and if this had taken place, they then proposed to have set fire to some

piles of wood near the prison, and in other parts of the town, and to get a considerable distance during the conflagration; but the keepers having listened to their discourse, they were more strictly guarded than before, and their whole scheme rendered abortive. A short time before their execution Burnworth told one of the keepers, that, "If he did not see him buried in a decent manner, he would meet him after death in a dark entry, and pull off his nose." When the day of execution arrived, the prisoners were put into a cart, and a company of foot soldiers escorted them to the fatal tree. On their way Blewitt saw a gentleman named Warwick, and having obtained permission to speak to him, most earnestly entreated his pardon for having attempted to shoot him, in consequence of an information which Mr. Warwick had given against him. Dickenson and Blewitt appeared more penitent than any of the rest. They wept bitterly at the place of execution, and said, they hoped their untimely fate would teach young men to avoid such courses as had brought them to their fatal end. They suffered April 12, 1726. After execution, their bodies were brought to the new gaol in Southwark, to be fitted with chains. The bodies of Burnworth and Blewitt were suspended on a gibbet in St. George's Fields, near where the murder was perpetrated. Legee and Higgs were hanged on Putney Common, and Berry and Dickenson on Kennington Common; but representation being made to the people in power, that Dickenson's father, when a lieutenant in the army, had died fighting for his country, in Flanders, permission was given to his friends, to take down and bury the body, after he had hung one day. Marjoram, the evidence, obtained his liberty, of course, when his accomplices were convicted; but in a few days afterwards he cut the string of a butcher's apron, and ran away with the steel.

Being pursued, he was apprehended, committed, and being indicted for privately stealing, was convicted, and received sentence of death; but in consideration of his having been the means of bringing the above-mentioned atrocious offenders to justice, the sentence of death was changed to that of transportation.

JOHN ONEBY, ESQ.

MURDERER.——A MILITARY OFFICER.

THIS man, to use an applicable, but common observation, was a *pot-valiant* officer of the army. He was the son of an eminent attorney, at Burnwell in Leicestershire, who gave him an education which should have taught him not to violate the laws of his country. His father intended him for his own honourable profession, and procured him a marriage with the niece of the celebrated Sir Nathan Wright, who was appointed Lord Keeper of the great seal of England.

Sir Nathan appointed him to be his train-bearer, an invaluable place; but greatly inferior to what the young gentleman's ambition had taught him to aspire to. However he kept his place some time, in expectation of preferment; but failing in his views of promotion in this line, he bought a commission in the army.

He served under the duke of Marlborough, in several campaigns in Flanders, and was promoted in the army as the reward of his military merit. While in winter-quarters at Bruges, at the close of one of these campaigns, he had a quarrel with another officer, which occasioned a duel, and Oneby, having killed the other, was brought to his trial before a court martial, which acquitted him of the murder.

The regiment being soon afterwards ordered to Jamaica, Mr. Oneby went with it, and during his residence at Port Royal, fought another duel with a brother officer, whom he wounded in so dangerous a manner, that he expired after an illness of several months, but as he did not instantly die, no farther notice was taken of the affair.

The rank of Major in a regiment of dragoons had been conferred on Mr. Oneby, in consequence of his services; but on the peace of Utrecht he returned to England, and was reduced to half pay.

Repairing to London, he frequented the gaming-houses, and became so complete a gambler that he commonly carried cards and dice in his pockets. Having fallen into company with some gentlemen at a coffee-house in Covent-Garden, they all adjourned to the Castle-Tavern, in Drury-Lane, where they went to cards.

Mr. Hawkins, who was of the company, having declined playing, Mr. Rich asked if any one would set him three half-crowns. The bet was apparently accepted by William Gower, Esq. who, in ridicule laid down three half-pence.

On this Major Oneby abused Gower, and threw a bottle at him; and, in return, Gower threw a glass at the other. Swords were immediately drawn on both sides; but Mr. Rich interposing, the parties were apparently reconciled, and sat down to their former diversion.

Gower seemed inclined to compromise the difference, saying, that he was willing to adjust the affair, though the major had been the aggressor. In answer to this Oneby said, he "would have his blood;" and said to Mr. Hawkins that the mischief had been occasioned by him. Hawkins replied "he was ready to answer, if he had any thing to say:" to which Oneby said, "I have another chap first."

Mr. Hawkins left the company about three o'clock in the morning; soon after which Mr. Oneby arose, and said to Gower, "Hark ye, young gentleman, a word with you;" on which they retired to another room, and shut the door. A clashing of swords being heard by the company, the waiter broke open the door, and, on their entrance, they found Oneby holding Gower with his left hand, having his sword in the right: and Mr. Gower's sword laid on the floor.

Before the company could part the combatants, Gower dropped to the ground; but it was not imagined that he had been wounded, till blood was observed streaming through his waistcoat. On this one of the company said to the major, that he was apprehensive he had killed Mr. Gower; but the other replied, "No, I might have done it if I "would; but I have only frightened him; but supposing I "had killed him, I know what is to be done in these affairs; "for if I had killed him to night in the heat of passion,

"I should have had the law on my side; but if I had done "it at any other time it would have looked like a set "meeting, and not a rencounter."

A surgeon of eminence having examined Mr. Gower's wounds, it was found that the sword of his antagonist had passed through his intestines, of which wound he died the following day; on which Mr. Oneby was apprehended, and lodged in Newgate.

The circumstances above mentioned were stated on his trial; but some doubts arising in the minds of the jury, they brought in a special verdict, referable to the opinion of the twelve judges.

Mr. Oneby having remained in Newgate two years, and the judges not having met to give their opinion, he became impatient of longer confinement, and therefore moved the court of King's-Bench, that counsel might be heard on his case.

Hereupon the prisoner was carried into court, by virtue of a writ of habeas corpus; and the record of a special verdict being read, the reverend bench, with great humanity, assigned him two counsel, a solicitor, and a clerk in court.

Lord Chief Justice Raymond, and three other judges, presided a few days afterwards, when the major being again brought up, as well as those for the crown, were heard; after which the Lord Chief Justice declared, that he would take an opportunity of having the opinion of the other judges: and then the prisoner should be informed of the event.

The major, on his return to Newgate, gave a handsome dinner, at the Crown and Anchor Tavern in the Strand, to the persons who had the custody of him; and seeming to be in high spirits on account of the ingenious arguments used by his counsel, entertained little doubt of being discharged, and said he would spend the rest of his life in a military capacity.

After a considerable time, the judges assembled at Serjeant's Inn Hall, to bring the matter to a final decision. Counsel were heard on both sides, and the pleadings lasted

a whole day, during which the major was carousing with his friends in Newgate, and boasting of the certainty of his escape, as he had only acted in conformity with the character of a man of honour.

In the midst of these delusive expectations, a gentleman called, and told him that eleven of the judges had decreed against him; which greatly alarmed him. How far this was the fact could not then be known; for though the major employed several persons to wait at the Inn, to bring him information, they could learn nothing more than that the judges had broke up about ten o'clock at night, without declaring their opinion.

Not many days after this, the keeper of Newgate told the major he must double-iron him, to prevent his making his escape; and that he must be removed to a safer place; unless he would pay for a man, to attend him in his room. Oneby was shocked at this news, and asked the keeper's authority for such a proceeding; but he could obtain no satisfactory answer.

He was now loaded with irons; and having wrote several letters to the judges, and other persons of distinction, to which he received no answer, he began to be apprehensive that the most serious consequences would result from the crime of which he had been guilty.

The man appointed to attend the major in his room was one John Hooper (who was afterwards executioner,) a fellow of remarkable drollery, but of such a forbidding countenance, that when Oneby first saw him, he exclaimed, "What the devil do you bring this fellow here for? "Whenever I look at him, I shall think of being hanged." Hooper, however, by a nack of telling stories, soon made himself a very agreeable companion to the major.

At length the judges assembled again at Serjeant's-Inn Hall, and having declared their opinions to each other, the counsel for the prosecution demanded that their lordships would proceed to judgment. Hereupon the sense of the bench was delivered to Mr. Oneby by Lord Raymond, who said, that it was the unanimous opinion of the judges that

he had been guilty of murder; and that his declaring he would "have the blood" of Gower had great weight in his disfavour.

To this the major solemnly declared that he had never spoken such words; and begged the interposition of the judges with his majesty for a pardon. Lord Raymond told him it was in vain for him to deny the words, as they were returned in the special verdict; and that the judges could not interfere by an application to the king; but that he must seek another channel through which to solicit the royal mercy.

A few days after this, judgment of death was passed against him; and he was ordered to be executed. His friends and relations exerted all their influence to procure him a pardon; but their intercessions proved in vain. For a while he flattered himself that his gambling companions would intercede in his favour, and he made application to them accordingly; but none of them interested themselves in any degree to do him service.

While the major was in confinement, an author waited on him, and told him that a pamphlet was written in his disfavour, but that he would exert his best endeavours to put a stop to the publication. It was supposed that the author's view was to have learnt something from the major that might be inserted in the pamphlet; but failing to obtain any materials by these means, the book made its appearance in a few days.

This circumstance so inflamed the passions of Oneby, that he said, "I would die willingly, if I could only get an opportunity of being revenged on that rascally, ragged author;" and he actually sent for him several times, with a view to have given him a drubbing; but the writer had more sagacity than to do honour to his invitation.

On the Saturday preceding the day that he was ordered for execution, an undertaker went to Newgate, and delivered him a letter, of which the following is a copy, saying, that he would wait below for an answer:

"Honoured Sir,

"This is to inform you, that I follow the business of an undertaker in Drury-Lane, where I have lived many years, and am well known to several of your friends. As you are to die on Monday, and have not, as I suppose, spoke to any body else about your funeral, if your honour shall think fit to give me orders, I will perform it as cheap, and in as decent a manner, as any man alive.

Your honour's unknown

Humble servant,

G. H."

The major had no sooner read this letter than he flew into a violent passion; which being made known to the undertaker, he thought proper to decamp, without waiting for his orders.

When Hooper came at night to attend Mr. Oneby, he told him of the letter he had received from the undertaker; and, in terms very improper for his melancholy situation, expressed his resentment for the supposed affront.

Every hope of pardon being vanished, this unhappy man had recourse to the dreadful method of evading the ignominy of the gallows. On the night of the Saturday last mentioned, he went to bed at ten o'clock, and having slept till four o'clock on Sunday morning, he asked for a glass of brandy and water, and pen, ink, and paper: and, sitting up in the bed, wrote the following note:

"Cousin Turvill,

"Give Mr. Akerman, the turnkey below stairs, half a guinea; and Jack, who waits in my room, five shillings. The poor devils have had a great deal of trouble with me since I have been here."

Having delivered this note to his attendant, he begged to be left to his repose, that he might be fit for the reception of some friends who were to call on him. He was accord-

ingly left, and a gentleman coming into his apartment about seven o'clock, and the major's footman with him, he called out to the latter, "Who is that, Philip?" which were the last words he was heard to speak.

The gentleman approaching the bed-side, found he had cut a deep wound in his wrist with a penknife, and was drenched in blood. A surgeon was instantly sent for, but he was dead before his arrival.

JOHN GOW,

Captain of a notorious gang of Pirates.

Executed at Execution-dock, Aug. 11, 1729, for Piracy.

THIS unfortunate man was a native of one of the Orkney Islands, in the north of Scotland, and was instructed in maritime affairs, in which he became so expert, that he was appointed mate of a ship, in which he sailed on a voyage to Santa Cruz.

When the vessel was ready to weigh anchor from the place above mentioned, the merchants who had shipped goods on board her came to pay a parting visit to the captain, and to give him their final instructions.

On this occasion, the captain, agreeable to custom, entertained his company under an awning on the quarter-deck; and, while they were regaling, some of the sailors preferred a complaint of ill-treatment they pretended to have received, particularly with regard to short allowance.

The captain was irritated at so undeserved a charge, which seemed calculated to prejudice him in the opinion of his employers: but, conscious of the uprightness of his intentions, he did not reply in anger, but only said, that

there was a steward on board, who had the care of the provisions, and that all reasonable complaints should be redressed: on which the seamen retired, with apparent satisfaction.

The wind being fair, the captain directed his men to weigh anchor as soon as the merchants had quitted the vessel. It was observed that Patterson, one of the complainants, was very dilatory in executing his orders; on which the captain demanded why he did not exert himself to unfurl the sails: to which he made no direct answer; but was heard to mutter, "As we eat, so shall we work." The captain heard this, but took no notice of it, as he was unwilling to proceed to extremities.

The ship had no sooner sailed, than the captain considered his situation as dangerous, on reflecting that his conduct had been complained of, and his orders disobeyed. Hereupon he consulted the mate, and they agreed to deposit a number of small arms in the cabin, in order to defend themselves in case of an attack. This precaution might have been extremely salutary, but that they spoke so loud as to be overheard by two of the conspirators, who were on the quarter-deck.

The captain likewise directed the mate to order Gow, who was second-mate and gunner, to clean the arms; a circumstance that must plainly insinuate to the latter that the conspiracy was at least suspected.

Those who had overheard the conversation between the captain and mate, communicated the substance of it to Gow, and the other conspirators, who thereupon resolved to carry the plan into immediate execution. Gow, who had previously intended to turn pirate, thought the present an admirable opportunity, as there were several chests of money on board the ship: wherefore he proposed to his companions that they should immediately embark in the enterprize; and they determined to murder the captain, and seize the ship.

Half of the ship's company were regularly called to prayers in the great cabin at eight o'clock in the evening, while the other half were doing duty on deck; and, after

service, those who had been in the cabin went to rest in their hammocks. The contrivance was to execute the plot at this juncture. Two of the conspirators only remained on duty: the rest being among those who retired to their hammocks.

Between nine and ten at night a kind of watch-word was given, which was, "Who fires first?" On this some of the conspirators left their hammocks, and going to the cabins of the surgeon, chief mate, and supercargo, they cut their throats while they were asleep.

The surgeon finding himself violently wounded, quitted his bed, and soon afterwards dropped on the floor and expired. The mate and supercargo held their hands on their throats, and going on the quarter-deck, solicited a momentary respite, to recommend their souls to Heaven: but even this favour was denied; for the villains, who found their knives had failed to destroy them, dispatched them with pistols.

The captain hearing a noise, demanded the occasion of it. The boatswain replied that he did not know; but he was apprehensive that some of the men had either fallen or been thrown overboard. The captain hereupon went to look over the ship's side, on which two of the murderers followed, and tried to throw him into the sea; but he disengaged himself, and turned about to take a view of them; when one of them cut his throat, but not so as to kill him; for he now solicited mercy; but, instead of granting it, the other stabbed him in the back with a dagger, and would have repeated his blow; but he had struck with such force, that he could not draw back the weapon.

At this instant Gow, who had been assisting in the murders between the decks, came on the quarter-deck, and fired a brace of balls into the captain's body, which put a period to his life.

The execrable villains concerned in this tragical affair having thrown all the dead bodies overboard, Gow was unanimously appointed to the command of the ship.

Those of the sailors who had not been engaged in the conspiracy secreted themselves, some in the shrouds, some

under the stores, in dreadful apprehension of sharing the fate of the captain and their murdered companions.

Gow now assembled his associates on the quarter-deck, appointed them their different stations on board, and it was agreed to commence pirates. The new captain now directed that the men who had concealed themselves should be informed that no danger would happen to them if they did not interfere to oppose the new government of the ship, but keep such stations as were assigned them.

The men, whose terrors had taught them to expect immediate death, were glad to comply with these terms; but the pirates, to enforce obedience to their orders, appointed two men to attend with drawn cutlasses, to terrify the others into submission.

Gow and his companions now divided the most valuable effects in the cabin; and then ordering liquor to be brought on the quarter-deck, they consumed the night in drinking, while those unconnected in the conspiracy had the care of working the ship.

The ship's crew originally consisted of twenty-four men, of whom four had been murdered, and eight were conspirators; and before morning four of the other men had approved of the proceedings of the pirates; so that there were only eight remaining in opposition to the newly usurped authority.

On the following day, the new captain summoned these eight men to attend him, and telling them he was determined to go on a cruizing voyage, said, that they should be well treated if they were disposed to act in concert with the rest of the crew. He said, that every man should fare in the same manner, and that good order and discipline was all that would be required. He said further, that the captain's inhumanity had produced the consequences which had happened: that those who had not been concerned in the conspiracy had no reason to fear any ill consequences from it: that they had only to discharge their duty as seamen, and every man should be rewarded according to his merit.

To this address these unfortunate honest men made no kind of reply; and Gow interpreted their silence into an

assent of measures, which it was not in their power to oppose. After this declaration of the will of the new captain, they were permitted to range the ship at their pleasure; but as some of them appeared to act very reluctantly, a strict eye was kept on their conduct; for, as guilt is ever suspicious, the pirates were greatly apprehensive of being brought to justice by means of some of these men.

A man named Williams now acted as lieutenant of the vessel; and, being distinguished by the ferocity of his nature, he had an opportunity of exerting his cruelty by beating the unhappy men, a privilege that he did not fail to exert with a degree of severity that must render his memory detestable.

The ship thus seized had been called the George Galley, but the pirates gave her the name of the Revenge; and having mounted several guns, they steered towards Spain and Portugal, in expectation of making a capture of wine, of which article they were greatly deficient.

They soon made prize of an English vessel, laden with fish, bound from Newfoundland to Cadiz; but having no use for the cargo, they took out the captain and four men, who navigated the ship, which they sunk.

One of the seamen whom they took out of the captured vessel was named James Belvin, a man admirably calculated for their purpose, as he was by nature cruel, and by practice hardened in that cruelty. He said to Gow, that he was willing to enter into all his schemes, for he had been accustomed to the practice of acts of barbarity. This man was thought a valuable acquisition to the crew, as several of the others appeared to act from motives of fear, rather than of inclination.

The next vessel taken by the pirates was a Scotch ship bound to Italy with pickled herrings; but this cargo, like the former, being of no use to them, they sunk the vessel, having first taken out the men, arms, ammunition, and stores.

After cruizing eight or ten days, they saw a vessel about the size of their own, to which they gave chase. She

hoisted French colours, and crowded all her sail in order to get clear of them; and, after a chace of three days and nights, they lost the French vessel in a fog.

Being distressed for water, they now steered towards the Madeira Islands, of which they came in sight in two days, but not thinking it prudent to enter the harbour, they steered off and on for several days, in expectation of making prize of some Portuguese or Spanish vessel, but their expectations were frustrated.

Their distress increasing, they stood in for the harbour, and brought the ship to an anchor, but at a considerable distance from the shore. This being done, they sent seven men, well armed, in a boat, with instructions to board a ship, cut her cables, and bring her off; but, if they failed in this, they were to attempt to make prize of wine and water, conveying it in the boats to the ships. But both these schemes were frustrated, since it was easily known, from the distance they lay at, that they were pirates.

When they had cruised off for some days, they found themselves in such distress, that it became absolutely necessary to seek immediate relief; on which they sailed to Port Santa, a Portuguese settlement, at the distance of about ten leagues.

On their arrival off this place, they sent their boat on shore, with a present of salmon and herrings for the governor, and the name of a port to which they pretended to be bound. The persons sent on shore were civilly treated by the governor, who accompanied some of his friends on board the ship. Gow and his associates received the governor very politely, and entertained him and his company in the most hospitable manner; but the boat belonging to the pirates not coming on board with some provisions they had expected, and the governor and his attendants preparing to depart, Gow and his people threatened to take away their lives, unless they instantly furnished them with what they required.

The surprize of the Portuguese governor and his friends on this occasion is not to be expressed.. They dreaded instant death, and, with every sign of extreme fear, solicited

that their lives might be spared. Gow being peremptory in his demands, the governor sent a boat repeatedly on shore, till the pirates were furnished with such articles as they wanted.

This business being ended, the Portuguese were permitted to depart, and the pirates determined to steer towards the coast of Spain, where they soon arrived. After cruising a few days off Cape St. Vincent, they fell in with an English vessel bound from the coast of Guinea to America, with slaves; but had been obliged to put into the port of Lisbon: however, it would have been of no use for them to have made capture of such a vessel: yet they did take it, and putting on board the captain and men they had heretofore taken, and taking out all the provisions, and some of the sails, they left the ship to proceed on her voyage.

Falling in with a French ship laden with wine, oil, and fruit, they took out the lading, and gave the vessel to the Scotch captain, in return for the ship which they had sunk. The Scotchman was likewise presented with some valuable articles, and permitted to take his men to sail with him; all of whom did so, except one, who continued with the pirates through choice.

The day previous to this affair; they observed a French ship bearing down towards them, on which Gow ordered his people to lay to; but observing that the vessel mounted two and thirty guns, and seemed proportionably full of men, he assembled his people, and observed to them, that it would be madness in them to think of engaging so superior a force.

The crew in general were of Gow's opinion; but Williams, the lieutenant, said, that Gow was a coward, and unworthy to command the vessel. The fact is, that Gow possessed somewhat of calm courage, while Williams's impetuosity was of the most brutal kind. The latter, after behaving in the most abusive manner, demanded that the former should give orders for fighting the vessel; but Gow refusing to comply, the other presented his pistol to shoot him; but it only flashed in the pan.

This being observed by two of the pirates, named Winter

and Patterson, they both fired at Williams, when one of them wounded him in the arm, and the other in the belly. He dropped as soon as the pieces were discharged, and the other seamen thinking he was dead, were about to throw him overboard, when he suddenly sprang on his feet, jumped into the hold, and swore he would set fire to the powder-room; and as his pistol was yet loaded, there was every reason to think he would actually have done so, if he had not been instantly seized, and his hands chained behind him, in which condition he was put among the French prisoners, who were terrified at the sight of him; for the savage ferocity and barbarity of his nature is not to be described; it being a common practice with him to beat the prisoners in the severest manner, for his diversion, (as he called it,) and then threatened to murder them.

No engagement happened with the French ship, which held on her way; and two days afterwards the pirates took a ship belonging to Bristol, which was laden with salt-fish, and bound from Newfoundland to Oporto. Having taken out the provisions, and many of the stores, they compelled two of the crew to sail with them, and then put the French prisoners on board the newly captured vessel, which was just on the point of sailing, when they began to reflect in what manner that execrable villain, Williams, should be disposed of.

At length it was determined to put him on board the Bristol ship, the commander of which was desired to turn him over to the first English man of war he should meet with, that he should experience the justice due to his crimes; and in the mean time to keep him in the strictest confinement.

The cruelty of Williams's disposition has been already mentioned, and the following is the most striking instance of it. Among the arguments used by Gow against engaging the French ship, one was, that they had already more prisoners than they had proper accommodation for, on which Williams proposed, that those in their possession might be brought up singly, their throats cut, and their bodies thrown overboard; but Gow said, there had been

too much blood spilt already: for this was too horrid a proposal for even pirates to consent to.

The fact is, that Williams would have been hanged at the yard-arm, if an opportunity had not offered of putting him on board the Bristol ship. When he learnt their intention respecting him, he earnestly besought a reconciliation; but this being refused him, and he being brought on deck in irons, he begged to be thrown overboard, as he was certain of an ignominious death on his arrival in England; but even this poor favour was denied him; and his companions only wished him "a good voyage to the gallows."

When the captain of the Bristol ship reached the port of Lisbon, he delivered his prisoner on board an English man of war, which conveyed him to England, where he had afterwards the fate of being hanged along with his companions, as we shall see in the sequel.

As soon as the Bristol ship had left them, Gow and his crew began to reflect on their situation. They were apprehensive, that as soon as intelligence of their proceedings reached Portugal, some ships would be sent in pursuit of them. Hereupon they called a kind of council, in which every one gave his opinion, as dictated by his hopes of profit, or by his fears.

Some of them advised going to the coast of Guinea, others to North-America, and others again to the West Indies; but Gow proposed to sail to the isles of Orkney, on the north of Scotland, where, he said, they might dispose of their effects, and retire, and live on the produce. To induce his people to comply with this proposal, Gow represented that they were much in want of water, and provisions of every kind; that their danger would be great, if they continued longer on the high seas; and above all, that it was highly necessary for them to repair their ship, which they could not do with any degree of safety in a southern port.

He likewise said, that if any ships should be dispatched in quest of them, they would not think of searching for them in a northern latitude, so that their voyage that way would be safe; and if they would follow his directions,

much booty might be obtained by plundering the houses of the gentlemen residing near the sea-coast. The danger of alarming the country was objected to these proposals; but Gow said, that they should be able to dispatch all their business, and sail again, before such an event could happen.

Apparently convinced by this reasoning, they steered northward, and entering a bay of one of the Orkney Islands, Gow assembled his crew, and instructed them, what tale they should tell to the country people, to prevent suspicion: and it is probable that they might, for the present, have escaped detection, if his instructions had been literally obeyed.

These instructions were, to say they were bound from Cadiz to Stockholm, but contrary winds driving them past the Sound, till it was filled with ice, they were under the necessity of putting it in to clean their ship; and that they would pay ready money for such articles as they stood in need of.

It happened that a smuggling vessel lay at this time in the bay. It belonged to the Isle of Man; and, being laden with brandy and wine from France, had come north-about, to steer clear of the Custom-House cutters. In their present situation Gow thought prudent to exchange goods with the commander of the vessel; though in any other he would hardly have been so ceremonious. A Swedish vessel entering the bay two days afterwards, Gow likewise exchanged some goods with the captain.

Now it was that the fate of the pirates seemed to be approaching; for such of the men as had been forced into the service began to think how they should effect their escape, and secure themselves, by becoming evidence against their dissolute companions.

When the boat went ashore one evening, a young fellow, who had been compelled to take part with the pirates, got away from the rest of the boat's crew, and, after laying concealed some time at a farm-house, hired a person to shew him the road to Kirkwall, the principal place on the islands, about twelve miles distant from the bay where the ship lay at anchor. Here he applied to a magistrate, said

he had been forced into the service, and begged that he might be entitled to the protection of the law, as the fear of death alone had induced him to be connected with the pirates.

Having given information of what he knew of their irregular proceedings, the sheriff issued his precepts to the constables and other peace officers to call in the aid of the people, to assist in bringing such villains to justice.

About this juncture, ten of Gow's sailors, who had likewise taken an involuntary part with the pirates, seized the long-boat, and having made the main land of Scotland, coasted the country till they arrived at Edinburgh, where they were imprisoned on suspicion of being pirates.

Notwithstanding these alarming circumstances, Gow was so careless of his own safety, that he did not put immediately to sea, but resolved to plunder the houses of the gentlemen on the coast, to furnish himself with fresh provisions.

In pursuance of this resolution he sent his boatswain and ten armed men to the house of Mr. Honeyman, high-sheriff of the county; and, the master being absent, the servants opened the door without suspicion. Nine of the gang went into the house to search for treasure, while the tenth was left to guard the door. The sight of men thus armed occasioned much terror to Mrs. Honeyman and her daughter, who shrieked with dreadful apprehensions for their personal safety; but the pirates, employed in the search of plunder, had no idea of molesting the ladies.

Mrs. Honeyman, running to the door, saw the man who stood guard there, whom she asked what could be the meaning of the outrage, to which he calmly replied that they were pirates, and had come thither only to ransack the house. Recollecting that she had a considerable quantity of gold in a bag, she returned and put it in her lap, and ran by the man at the door, who had no idea but that the wish to preserve her life occasioned her haste.

The boatswain missing this part of the expected treasure, declared that he would destroy the family writings: but this being overheard by Miss Honeyman, she threw the writings

out of the window, and jumping out after them, escaped unhurt, and carried them off. In the interim the pirates seized the linen, plate, and other valuable articles, and then walked in triumph to their boat, compelling one of the servants to play before them on the bagpipes.

On the following day they weighed anchor; but on the evening of the same day came again to an anchor, near another island. Here the boatswain and some men were sent on shore in search of plunder, but did not obtain any. However, they met with two women, whom they conveyed to the ship, where they detained them three days, and treated them in so shocking a manner, that one of them expired soon after they had put them on shore.

This atrocious offence was no sooner committed than they sailed to an island called Calf-sound, with an intention of robbing the house of Mr. Fea, who had been an old school fellow with Gow. This house was the rather pitched upon, as Gow supposed that Mr. Fea could not have yet heard of the transactions at Mr. Honeyman's; but in this he was mistaken: though Fea could not oppose the pirates on that occasion, on account of the indisposition of his wife.

Mr. Fea's house was situated near the sea-shore: he had only six servants at home when the pirates appeared off the coast; and these were by no means equal to a contest with the plunderers. It may not be improper to remark, that the tide runs so high among these island, and beats with such force against the rocks, that the navigation is frequently attended with great danger.

Gow who had not boats to assist him in an emergency, and was unskilled in the navigation of those seas, made a blunder in turning into the bay of Calf-Sound; for standing too near the point of a small island called the Calf, the vessel was in the utmost danger of being run on shore. This little island was merely a pasture for sheep belonging to Mr. Fea, who had at that time six hundred feeding on it.

Gow having cast his anchor too near the shore, so that the wind could not bring him off, sent a boat with a letter to Mr. Fea, requesting that he would lend him another boat, to assist him in heaving off the ship, by carrying out an

anchor; and assuring him that he would not do the least injury to any individual.

As Gow's messenger did not see Mr. Fea's boat, the latter gave him an evasive answer, and, on the approach of night, ordered his servants to sink his own boat, and hide the sails and rigging.

While they were obeying this order, five of Gow's men came on shore in the boat, and proceeded, doubly armed, towards Fea's house. Hereupon the latter advanced towards them with an assurance of friendship, and begged that they would not enter the house, for that his wife was exceedingly ill; that the idea of their approach had greatly alarmed her, and that the sight of them might probably deprive her of life. The boatswain replied, that they had no design to terrify Mrs. Fea, or any other person; but that the most rigorous treatment must be expected, if the use of the boat was denied them.

Mr. Fea represented how dangerous it would be for him to assist them, on account of the reports circulated to their discredit; but he offered to entertain them at an adjacent alehouse, and they accepted the invitation, as they observed that he had no company. While they were drinking, Mr. Fea ordered his servants to destroy their boat, and when they had done so, to call him hastily out of the company, and inform him of it.

These orders were exactly complied with; and, when he had left the pirates, he directed six men, well armed, to station themselves behind a hedge, and if they observed him to come alone with the boatswain, instantly to seize him: but if he came with all the five desperadoes, he would walk forward, so as to give them an opportunity of firing without wounding himself.

After giving these orders, Fea returned to the company, whom he invited to his house, on the promise of their behaving peaceably, and said he would make them heartily welcome. They all expressed a readiness to attend him, in the hope of getting the boat: but he told them he would rather have the boatswain's company only, and would afterwards send for his companions.

This being agreed to, the boatswain set forward with two brace of pistols, and walked with Mr. Fea till they came to the hedge where his men were concealed, he then seized him by the collar, while the others took him into custody before he had time to make any defence. The boatswain called aloud for his men: but Mr. Fea, forcing a handkerchief into his mouth, bound him hand and foot, and then left one of his own people to guard him, while himself and the rest went back to the public house.

There being two doors to the house, they went some to the one and some to the other, and rushing in at once, they made prisoners of the other four men, before they had time to have recourse to their arms for defence.

The five pirates being thus in custody, were sent to an adjacent village, and separately confined, and in the interim Mr. Fea sent messengers round the island, to acquaint the inhabitants with what had been done; to desire them to haul their boats on the beach, that the pirates should not swim to, and steal them; and to request that no person would venture to row within reach of the pirates' guns.

On the following day the wind shifted to the north-west, and blew hard, on which the pirates conceived hopes of getting out to sea; but the person employed to cut the cable missing some of his strokes, the ship's way was checked, she turned round, and the cable parting, the vessel was driven on Calf-Island.

Reduced to this dilemma, without even a boat to assist in getting off the ship, Gow hung out a white flag, as an intimation that he was willing to treat on friendly terms: but Mr. Fea, having now little doubt of securing the pirates, wrote to Gow, and told him that he had been compelled to make prisoners of his men on account of their insolent behaviour. He likewise told him, that the whole country was alarmed, and that the most probable chance of securing his own life, would be by surrendering, and becoming an evidence against his accomplices.

Four armed men in an open boat carried this letter to Gow, who sent for answer that he would give goods to the value of a thousand pounds to be assisted in his escape: but

if this should be refused, he would set fire to the ship, rather than become a prisoner. He even said that he would trust to the mercy of the waves, if Mr. Fea would indulge him with a boat.

On reading this letter, Fea determined to persuade him to submit, and therefore took four men well armed, in a boat, and rowed towards the ship: but he previously placed a man with a flag in his hand at the top of his house, to make such signals as might be proper to prevent his falling a sacrifice to any artifice of the pirates.

The instructions given to the servant were, that he should wave the flag once, if he saw one of the pirates swim towards the shore: but if he beheld four or more of them, he should wave it constantly, till his master got out of danger. Mr. Fea rowing forwards, spoke through a trumpet, asking Gow to come on shore, and talk with him, which the latter said he would. Hereupon Fea lay to, in waiting for him; but at this juncture he saw a man swimming from the ship, with a white flag in his hand, on which the man on the house waved his flag: but soon afterwards he was observed to wave it continually, on which Mr. Fea's boat retired, and those in her presently saw five more of the pirates swimming towards them; but they returned to the ship as soon as they saw the others were aware of the artifice.

The first pirate, who carried the white flag, now retired to a corner of the island, and calling to Mr. Fea, told him that "the captain had sent him a bottle of brandy." Fea replied that he hoped to see Gow hanged, and that he was inclined to shoot the messenger for his insolence; on which the fellow decamped with great precipitation.

Soon after this Gow wrote a most humble letter to Mrs. Fea, imploring her interference in his behalf; and though she had determined not to interest herself in his favour, yet he resolved to go on shore; and, taking a white flag in his hand, he made signals for a parley; on which Mr. Fea sent some armed men to seize him living or dead.

On their meeting, Gow insisted that one of the men should be left as a hostage; and this circumstance being seen by Mr. Fea, from the windows of his house, he sailed

over to the island, where he reprimanded his people for delivering the hostage; and likewise told Gow that he was his prisoner. Gowreplied, that could not be, since a hostage had been delivered for him.

To this Mr. Fea replied, that he had issued no orders for delivering the hostage, and that the man who had foolishly engaged himself as such must submit to the consequence; but he advised Gow, for his own sake, to make signals, that the man might obtain his liberty. This Gow refused to do; but Fea made signals which deceived the pirates, two of whom came on shore with the man, and were instantly taken into custody. Gow was now disarmed of his sword, and made prisoner, after begging to be shot with his sword in his possession.

The leader of the gang being thus secured, Mr. Fea had recourse to stratagem to get all the rest into his power. He now compelled Gow to make signals for some of them to come on shore, which they readily did, and were apprehended by men concealed to take them as they arrived.

Fea now insinuated to Gow, that he would let him have a boat to escape, if he would send for his carpenter to repair it, and to bring with him two or three hands to assist him: Gow complied; the men came off, and were severally seized: but as there were other people still on board, Mr. Fea had recourse to the following contrivances to get them into his possession. He directed his own servants to provide hammers, nails, &c. and make a pretence of repairing the boat; and while this was doing, told Gow to send for his men, since he must have possession of the ship before he would deliver up the boat.

The pirates, on receiving their late captain's orders to come on shore, were very doubtful how to act; but, after a short debate, and having no officers to command them, they shared what money they possessed, and, coming on shore, were all taken into custody.

Thus, by an equal exertion of courage, conduct, and artifice, did Mr. Fea secure these dangerous men, twenty-eight in number, without a single man being killed or wounded; and only with the aid of a few countrymen; a

force apparently very insufficient to the accomplishment of such a business.

When all the prisoners were properly secured, Mr. Fea sent an express to Edinburgh, requesting that proper persons might be sent to conduct them to that city. In the interim, Mr. Fea took an inventory of all the effects in the ship, to be appropriated as the government might direct.

Six articles, of which the following are a copy, were found on board the ship, in Gow's hand-writing. It is conjectured, that while they were entangled among the rocks of the Orkney Islands, these articles were hastily drawn up, and arose from their distressed situation.

I. That every man shall obey his commander in all respects as if the ship was his own, and as if he received monthly wages.

II. That no man shall give, or dispose of, the ships provisions; but every one shall have an equal share.

III. That no man shall open or declare to any person or persons, who they are, or what designs they are upon; and any persons so offending shall be punished with immediate death.

IV. That no man shall go on shore till the ship is off the ground, and in readiness to put to sea.

V. That every man shall keep his watch night and day; and at the hour of eight in the evening every one shall retire from gaming and drinking, in order to attend to his respective station.

VI. Every person who shall offend against any of these articles shall be punished with death, or in such other manner as the ship's company shall think proper.

The express from Mr. Fea being arrived at Edinburgh, another was forwarded to London, to learn the royal pleasure respecting the disposal of the pirates; and the answer brought was, that the Lord Justice Clerk should immediately send them to London, in order to their being tried by a court of admiralty, to be held for that purpose.

When these orders reached Edinburgh, a guard of soldiers marched to fetch them to that city; and, on their arrival, they were put on board the Greyhound frigate, which immediately sailed for the Thames.

On their arrival in the river a detatchment of the guards from the Tower attended their landing, and conducted them to the Marshal-sea Prison, where they once more saw Lieutenant Williams, who had been conveyed to England by the man of war which received him from the Bristol captain, at Lisbon, as above mentioned. This Williams, though certain of coming to an ignominious end, took a malignant pleasure in seeing his companions in like circumstances of calamity.

A commission was now made out for their trial; and, soon after their commitment, they underwent separate examinations before the judge of the Admiralty Court in Doctor's Commons, when five of them, who appeared to be less guilty than the rest, were admitted evidences against their accomplices.

Being removed from the Marshalsea to Newgate, their trials came on at the Old Bailey, when Gow, Williams, and six others, were convicted, and received sentence of death: but the rest were acquitted, as it seemed evident that they had been compelled to take part with the pirates.

The behaviour of Gow, from his first commitment, was reserved and morose. He considered himself as an assured victim to the justice of the laws, nor entertained any hope of being admitted an evidence, as Mr. Fea had hinted to him that he might be.

When brought to trial he refused to plead, in consequence of which he was sentenced to be pressed to death in the usual manner. His reason for this refusal was, that he had an estate which he wished might descend to a relation, and which would have been the case had he died under the pressure.

But, when the proper officers were about to inflict this punishment, he begged to be taken again to the bar to plead, of which the judge being informed, humanely granted his request; and the consequence was that he was convicted, as above mentioned, on the same evidence as his accomplices.

While under sentence of death, he was visited by some Presbyterian ministers, who laboured to convice him of the

atrociousness of his crime; but he seemed deaf to all their admonitions and exhortations.

Williams's depravity of mind exceeds all description. He seemed equally insensible to the hope of happiness, or the fear of torment in a future state. He boasted, to those who visited him, of his continually advising Gow "to tie the prisoners back to back, and throw them into the sea," to prevent their giving evidence against them.

Gow, Williams, and six of their accomplices, were executed together.

A remarkable circumstance happened to Gow at the place of execution. His friends, anxious to put him out of his pain, pulled his legs so forcibly that the rope broke, and he dropped down; on which he was again taken up to the gibbet, and when he was dead, was hung in chains on the banks of the Thames.

WILLIAM SHELTON.

Executed at Tyburn, October 9, 1732, for Highway Robbery.

WILLIAM Shelton was born of respectable parents near Cheshunt, in Hertfordshire, and received a liberal education in the learned languages. At a proper age he was apprenticed to an apothecary at Enfield; but his master applied to his father to take him back at the end of two years, as his conduct was so irregular that he did not choose any further connexion with him.

In consequence hereof he was placed with an apothecary at Stoke, Newington; and though he still kept gay company, he served six years with a fair character.

About this time he became violently enamoured of his mistress's sister, who was by no means insensible to his addresses. She lived in the family; but no person suspected their intimacy, till the mistress accidentally heard her sister freely represent to Shelton the disagreeable consequence that must arise from keeping bad company and late hours.

Shelton's master and his wife both disapproved of the intended match, on account of his keeping too much gay company; and his own parents objected to it from the same reason, wishing him to acquire greater steadiness of mind before he married.

When his seven years were complete, he took leave of the young lady with professions of lasting love; and his father having supplied him with money, he engaged in business, and was for some time greatly successful; but his immoderate attachment to pleasure lost him much of his business and many of his friends.

He had not been long in trade before he became enamoured of a young lady, daughter of a widow in his neighbourhood; and having made an acquaintance with her unknown to her mother, he conveyed her out of a back window of the house, and married her at the Fleet. So soon had he forgot his vows to the former lady!

The father of the bride having been a citizen of London, her fortune had been deposited in the hands of the chamberlain, who readily paid it to the husband.

Shelton was still in considerable business; but his attachment to company was such that his expenses exceeded his income; so that he grew daily poorer; and his father dying about this time, left all his fortune to his widow, for her life; so that Shelton had nothing to expect till after the death of his mother.

He now made acquaintance with some people of abandoned character, and took to a habit of gaming, by which his circumstances became still more embarassed, and he was obliged to decline business after he had followed it only two years.

Thus distressed, he entered as surgeon on board a ship bound to Antigua, and was received with such singular

tokens of respect by the inhabitants of the island, that he resolved to settle there as a surgeon, and write to England for his wife to come over to him; but an unfortunate circumstance prevented the carrying this scheme into execution.

In the island of Antigua it is customary to exercise the militia weekly, when the officers on duty treat their brethren in rotation, and invite what company they please. Mr. Shelton being invited by Colonel Ker, the latter gave a generous treat, and urged his friends to drink freely. On the approach of night, some of them would have gone home; but the colonel prevailed on them to stay till the next day, hinting that it might be dangerous to meet some negroes who had quitted the plantation.

Shelton agreed, among others, to stay: but he had not been long in bed, when the liquor he had drank occasioned the most excruciating pain in his bowels. The next morning he took some medicines to abate the pain, and the end was answered for the present; but he determined to embark for England, as he thought he felt the symptoms of an approaching consumption.

Hereupon he sailed for his native country, and arrived to the surprise of his friends, who had been taught to expect that he would continue in Antigua. They, however, advised him to settle at Buntingford, in Hertfordshire, where there was a vacancy occasioned by the death of an apothecary.

Shelton having inquired into the affair, and finding no prospect worth his notice, his wife's mother persuaded him to take a house at Brassin, a village near Buntingford, intimating that she would live with him, and be at the expense of house keeping. This proposal was accepted; but when the leases were drawn, the old lady refused to execute them, so that Shelton was obliged to abandon his agreeable prospect, in a way that appeared not very reputable to himself.

Distressed in mind, and not knowing how to support himself, he determined to commence highwayman; and having hired a horse, and furnished himself with pistols, he rode to Finchley Common; but after looking out some

hours, and meeting with no booty there, he returned towards London, in his way to which he took about thirty shillings from four ladies, whom he stopped in a coach; and he obtained three shillings and six-pence from a gentleman he met on the road.

He now put on a mask; and, thus disguised, robbed the passengers in three stage-coaches on Epping Forest of their watches and money. Some persons on horseback immediately pursued him, and were very near him at Waltham Abbey, but taking a different road, he went round by Cheshunt, and escaped to London, where he the next day, heard that his pursuers had galloped after him to Enfield.

The watches he sold to a Jew, and having spent the money, he rode out to Hounslow Heath, where he demanded a gentleman's money, and, after some hesitation on the part of the latter, robbed him of thirty-two guineas and some silver. This done, he crossed the Thames to Richmond, where he dined, and afterwards stopped two ladies, in a coach, on Putney Common, but got no booty from them, as they had just before been robbed by another highwayman.

On the same evening he robbed a Quaker of nine pounds; and, early on the following morning, he stopped the Northampton stage, and robbed the passengers of twenty-seven pounds. The reason for these rapid robberies was, that he had a debt to discharge which he had contracted at the gaming table; which being done, he appeared among his former companions as before.

Soon after this he rode towards Chiswick, in the hope of meeting a colonel in the army: but as the gentleman knew him, he was apprehensive of being recollected by his voice, though he wore a mask. The colonel seeing a man masked coming forward, produced a pistol, and on the other coming up, fired at him, and grazed the skin of his horse's shoulder. Shelton now fired, and wounded the colonel's horse, on which the colonel discharged his other pistol, but without effect. Hereupon the highwayman demanded his money, which having received, to the amount of about 50l. he took a circuit round the country, and came into London at night.

On the week following this robbery, he obtained a booty of ten guineas, some silver, and two gold watches, on Finchley Common; but, being pursued by some gentlemen on horseback, he concealed himself on Enfield Chace, and having eluded his pursuers, he rode to London, but in his way robbed a gentleman and lady of between thirty and forty shillings, on Muswell Hill.

On the following evening he took a ride, but did not rob any person; but, on his return through Islington, he heard somebody cry out, "Stop the highwayman!" on which he rode hastily up a lane, where his horse had nearly stuck fast in a slough; but, getting through it, he stopped in a field, and saw his pursuers waiting in expectation of him. He, therefore, made a circle, and got down Goswell-street, to the end of Old-street, where he again heard the cry of "A highwayman!" on which he rode to Dog-House-Bar, and escaped by the way of Moorfields.

Soon after this he rode to Enfield Chace, and putting on a mask, robbed one of the northern stages, while the driver was watering his horses at a pond. Some men who were playing at skittles seeing this robbery, surrounded his horse; but, on his firing a pistol, they ran away, and he pursued his journey to London.

Having one day committed a robbery on the Hertford road, he was returning to town, when he overtook two farmers, who had been drinking at an alehouse till they were valiant, and were wishing to meet Dr. Shelton, whom they would certainly take: and they wondered how people could permit him to proceed unmolested. On this Shelton presented his pistol, and they delivered their money with every sign of fear: the money was but trifling, which he returned, laughing at them for their assumed courage.

His next robbery was on Finchley Common, where he took several watches, and sixteen pounds, from the company in the Northampton stage; and the name of Shelton was now become so eminent, that many other robbers courted his acquaintance; among whom were two men who had formed a design of robbing the turnpike man on Stamford Hill, but had not resolution to carry their plan into execution.

This design was no sooner mentioned to Shelton, than he agreed to be concerned: whereupon they went on foot from London at ten o'clock at night; but before they reached the spot, Shelton's companions relented, and would go no farther; on which they came to town, in their way to which they robbed a gentleman of a few shillings; but Shelton determined to have no farther connexion with these people.

His next robbery was on two gentlemen in a chaise, both of them armed with pistols, in the road from Hounslow, from whom he took 16l. and soon after this, being destitute of cash, and determined to make a bold attempt, he robbed several coaches one evening, and acquired a booty of 90l. exclusive of rings and watches.

In consequence of these repeated robberies, a proclamation was issued for taking Shelton into custody, in which a minute description was given of his person; on which he concealed himself some time in Hertfordshire; but he had not been there long, before a person, who recollected him, informed a neighbouring magistrate, on which he was taken into custody, and conveyed to London.

He was tried at the next sessions at the Old Bailey, for several robberies in Middlesex; and being convicted, he was sentenced to die.

While in prison he affected great gaiety of disposition, and was fond of entertaining his visitors with the history of his exploits. At times indeed he would be more serious; but he soon recurred to his former volatility.

On the arrival of the warrant for his execution, he seemed greatly agitated, and it was remarked that he shed some tears; but having recourse to the bottle, he dissipated those ideas that had given him uneasiness.

At the place of execution he refused to perform the customary devotions.

JOSEPH POWIS.

A strolling Player, executed for Housebreaking.

WE now come to another desperado, the catalogue of whose crimes, thanks to the vigilance of the police, will hardly be found in the depredations of a score of modern thieves. Had the bent of this man's mind been encouraged in its course, he might have proved a credit to society. The stage which was his choice, is fascinating to youth, but its pursuit generally leads to a dissolute life. How seldom do we find, that those who excel in the mimic art, are eminent in the practice of morality in private life. Yet, from this observation would we rescue Bannister, the Kembles, Lewis, Young, Wroughton, Dowton, Murray, Fawcet, Munden, Johnstone, and Matthews; eminent on the London boards, and respected in private society. Country Theatres, too, are not without men of merit, in their public capacity, and who are also ornaments to society; but the stage, like the pulpit, in disseminating morality, is too often disgraced by the private vices of their professors.

Joseph Powis was a native of St. Martin in the Fields; and his father dying while he was an infant, his mother married a smith in St. Martin's-lane, who was remarkable for his ingenuity.

The father-in-law going to Harfleur, in Normandy, with many other skilful artists, to be concerned in an iron manufactory, took Powis with him when he was only eight years of age.

They had not been long here before the father-in-law received a letter, advising him of the death of his wife; on which he left the boy to the care of an Englishman, and coming to London, in order to settle his affairs, soon returned to Normandy.

But the scheme in which they had embarked failing, they soon came back to England, and the man marrying a second

wife, took a shop in Chancery-lane, London, and sent young Powis to school, where he made such progress, that a little time gave hope of his becoming a good Latin scholar.

But he had not been long at school before his father-in-law took him home, to instruct him in his own business; and hence his misfortunes appear to have arisen; for such was his attachment to literature, that when he was sent of an errand, he constantly loitered away his time reading at the stall of some bookseller.

When he had been about four years with his father, two lads of his acquaintance persuaded him to take a stroll into the country; and they wandered through the villages adjacent to London, for about a week, in a condition almost starving; and sometimes begging food to relieve the extremities of hunger; but distress compelled them to return to town.

The father-in-law of Powis received him kindly, forgave his fault, and he continued about a year longer with him; but having read a number of plays, he imbibed such romantic notions as disqualified him for business.

Inspired with an idea of going on the stage, he offered his service to Mr. Rich, late manager of Covent Garden theatre; but having repeated some parts of the tragedy of Julius Cæsar, Mr. Rich told him he was disqualified for the stage, and advised him to attend his trade.

Soon after this Powis again quitted his father-in-law, and rambled through the country some days; but returning on a Sunday, in the absence of the family, he broke open a chest, and taking out his best clothes, again decamped.

Powis's father, finding that nothing had been taken except the boy's clothes, easily judged who must be the thief; wherefore he went with a constable in search of the youth, whom he took before a magistrate, in the hope of making him sensible of his folly.

The justice threatening to commit him unless he made a proper submission, he promised to go home and do so; but dropping his father-in-law in the street, he went to an acquaintance, to whom he communicated his situation, and asked his advice how to act. His friend advised him to go home, and discharge his duty: but this not suiting his in-

clination, and it being now the time of Bartholomew-fair, he engaged with one Miller, to act a part in a farce exhibited at Smithfield.

His next adventure was the going to Dorking in Surry, with one Dutton, a strolling player, by whom he was taught to expect great things: but Dutton, having previously affronted the inhabitants, met with no encouragement; on which they proceeded to Horsham in Sussex, where they were equally unsuccessful.

Powis now slept in a hay-loft, near the kitchen of an inn, and being almost starved, he used to get in at the window and steal victuals, while the family were in bed. He likewise stole a new pair of shoes belonging to the landlord: but the latter soon discovering the thief, took the shoes from him, and gave him an old pair in the stead.

About this time Dutton took Powis's clothes from him, and gave him others that were little better than rags.

Having left this town, they put up at an inn, where the landlord obliged the company to sleep in the hay loft, admitting none but the manager to come within the house. At night Powis crept into the kitchen, and devoured the remains of a cold pye; and stole a pair of boots, and a pair of stockings, with which he retreated to the hay-loft. He continued to steal provisions several nights, till the landlord and Dutton watched, with loaded guns, in expectation of the thief, who, however, came not that night.

Powis having obtained a few half-pence by one of his petty thefts, stole out from the hay-loft to drink at a public-house; but the landlord happening to be there, knew the boots to be his! on which our unfortunate adventurer hastily retreated to his hay-loft, where he expected to be secure: but the landlord, Dutton, and others, following him, seized him, and took him into the kitchen for examination. He readily confessed that he had stolen the victuals; on which he was delivered into the custody of two countrymen, to guard him till the next day, when it was proposed to take him before a magistrate.

The family having retired to bed, Powis pretended to fall fast asleep; on which one of his guard said, "How the

poor fellow sleeps, notwithstanding his misfortunes;" to which the other said, "Let me sleep an hour, and then I will watch while you sleep.

In a few minutes both the men were asleep: on which Powis thinking to escape, attempted to put on the boots; but making some noise, the landlord heard him, and coming down stairs Powis affected to sleep as before. The landlord awakened the guardians, and bid them take more care of their prisoner; which they promised to do, but soon fell asleep again.

Powis now took the boots in his hand, and getting out of the inn-yard, ran with the utmost expedition till he had got out of the town, and then drawing on the boots, he proceeded on his journey to London. However, he missed his way, and, getting on a common, knew not how to proceed; but going into a cow-house, in which was a quantity of flax, he laid down to rest. In the morning the owner of the flax found him, and inquiring what business he had there, Powis said that, being intoxicated, he had lost his way, on which the other directed him into the right road, in which he hastened forward, in the apprehension of being pursued.

Towards evening he arrived near Dorking, but did not enter the town till it was dark; and as he was going through the street, he heard a door open; and turning round, a woman, who had a candle in her hand, called him; and on his demanding what she wanted, she said to another woman, "Sure enough it is he."

This woman, who had washed the players' linen, said that two men had been in pursuit of him; and that his best way would be to avoid the high-road, and get to London some other way, with all possible expedition.

Powis immediately took this advice, and quitting the turnpike road, got to a farm-house, where he stole three books, and some other trifles, eat some provisions, and then proceeded towards London, stopping at Stockwell at a house kept by the mother of his father-in-law's wife. All this happened in the night; but, knowing the place, he went into the back-yard, and laid down to sleep on some straw.

Observing some thrashers come to work in the morning, he concealed himself under the straw till night, when he crept out, went to a public-house, drank some beer, and returned to his former lodging.

Inspired by the liquor he had drank, he began to sing, which drawing some people round him, they conducted him into the house. His mother-in-law happening to be there on a visit, spoke with great kindness to him, and advised him to remain there till she had communicated the affair to her husband.

In a few days the father-in-law came to him, and expressed his readiness to take him home, if he would but attend his business, and decline his present vagrant course of life. This he readily agreed to, and continued steady during the winter: but, on the approach of summer, he again left his friends, and rambled about near a month, subsisting on the casual bounty of his acquaintance.

Falling into company with Joseph Paterson, whom he had known among the strolling players, Paterson engaged him to perform a part in the tragedy of the Earl of Essex, at Windmill-Hill, near Moor-fields, which was then the place of resort for the lower class of spouters in and near London.

The part of Lord Burleigh being assigned to Powis, and it being intimated in the printed bills that this part was to be performed by a young gentleman, being his first appearance on the stage, the curiosity of the public was somewhat excited, so that there was a full house. Unfortunately, Lord Burleigh was dressed in the shabbiest manner; and being little better than a compound of rags and dirt, it was with some difficulty the minister of state went through his part, amidst the laughter and ridicule of the spectators.

Returning home through Ludgate-street, after the play, he saw a gentleman who said he had dropped three guineas, but had picked up one of them. Powis happening to find the other two, kept one for himself, and gave the other to the owner, who, not knowing that he had retained one, insisted on his drinking a glass of wine, and thanked him for his civility.

Soon afterwards, Powis being stopped one night in

Chancery-lane, by a violent shower of rain, climbed over a gate, and got under the shelter of a pent-house belonging to the Six Clerk's Office, where he remained till morning, when the clerks came to their business; and he was then afraid to appear, lest he should be taken for a thief from the shabbiness of his dress.

Leaning against a plastered wall, part of it broke; but as the place he stood in was very dark, no one observed it, on which he resolved to profit by the accident: in consequence of which he, at night, made the breach wider, and got into the office, when he stole six guineas, and about fifty shillings in silver.

Having spent this money, he determined to join his old companions on Windmill-hill; and, in his way thither, he observed a fellow pick a countryman's pocket of a bag of money, in Smithfield; and a cry of "Stop thief" being immediately circulated, the pickpocket dropped the bag, which Powis picked up unobserved, and retiring to a public-house, examined the contents of the bag, which he found to amount to above fifty pounds.

Having put the money in his pocket, he threw away the bag, and retired to his lodgings. This money, a greater sum than he had ever before possessed, was soon spent in extravagance, and he was again reduced to great extremities.

Thus distressed, he got into the area of a coffee-house in Chancery-lane, and attempted to force the kitchen-window; but not succeeding, he secreted himself in the coal-cellar till the following evening, when he got into the house, and hid himself in a hole behind the chimney.

When the family were gone to rest, he stole some silver spoons, and about three shillings worth of half-pence from the bar, and having now fasted thirty hours, he ate and drank heartily; but hearing a person come down stairs, he pulled off his shoes, and retiring hastily, got into a hole where broken glass was kept; by which his feet were cut in a shocking manner.

It happened to be only the maid-servant, who came down stairs; and going into the kitchen, Powis put on his shoes, and ran through the coffee-room into the street.

Being again reduced, he broke into the Chancery-Office,

where he stole about four pounds ten shillings, which being spent, he looked out for a fresh supply. Going to St. Dunstan's Church, at the time of morning prayers, he hid himself in the gallery till night, and then stole some of the prayer-books, which he proposed to have carried off the next morning, when the appearance of the sexton, more terrified than the thief, ran to procure the assistance of another man; but in the mean time Powis had so secreted himself that they could not find him after a search of two hours; which they at length gave up, concluding that he had got out through one of the windows. However, he remained in the church all that day, and at the hour of prayer the next morning, went off with as many books as produced him a guinea.

On the following night he visited an acquaintance in Ram-alley, Fleet-street, where he observed a woman deposit some goods in a room, the door of which she fastened with a padlock. On this he concealed himself in the cellar till towards morning, when he opened the padlock with a crooked nail, and stole two gold rings and a guinea, being baulked in his expectation of a much more valuable prize.

One of the prayer-books, which he had stolen from St. Dunstan's Church, he sold to a bookseller in the Strand; and while the lady who had lost it was inquiring at the bookseller's if such a book had fallen into his hands, Powis happened to stop to speak with a gentleman at the door; on which the bookseller said, "There is the man who sold it me; and the lady replied, "He is a thief, and has stolen it."

The bookseller calling Powis into his shop, asked if he had sold him that book, which he acknowledged; and being desired to recollect how he had obtained it, he said he could not; on which the bookseller threatened to have him committed to prison; but the lady now earnestly looked at him, asked if his name was Powis. He said it was, on which she burst into tears, and said, "I am sorry for you, and for your poor father: you are the cause of all his unhappiness." The bookseller, happening likewise to know Powis's father, delivered the book to the lady, and permitted

the young thief to depart, on promise to pay for it on the following day; but the day of payment never came.

A few nights after this he climbed up the sign-post belonging to a pastry-cook in Fleet-street, and got in at a chamber-window, whence he descended into the shop; but not finding any money in the till, he stole only two or three old books, and filled his pockets with tarts, with which he decamped.

Calling some days afterwards at the same shop to buy a tart, he found the people of the house entertaining themselves with the idea of the disappointment the thief had met with; and a lady who lodged in the house produced her gold watch, saying she supposed that had been the object of his search.

This circumstance encouraged him to make another attempt; wherefore, on the following night, he again ascended the sign-post, and got in at the window; but hearing a person coming down stairs without shoes, he got back to the sign-post, descended, and ran off. He was instantly pursued; but escaped through the darkness of the night.

Chagrined at this disappointment, he sauntered into the fields, and lay down under a hay-rick. He slumbered awhile! but being distressed in mind, he imagined he heard a voice crying, "Run, run, fly for your life; for you are "pursued, and if you are taken, you will be hanged." He started with wild affright, and large drops of sweat ran down his face, occasioned by the agitation of his mind.

Finding that he had only been disturbed by a dream, he again lay down, but the stings of his conscience again haunting him, he dreamt that a person came to him, saying, "Young man, you must go away from hence; for were I to "suffer you to remain here, I should expect a judgment to "fall on me; so go away, or I will fetch a constable, who "shall oblige you to go." Being again terrified, he walked round the hay-rick, calling out, "Who is there?" but receiving no answer, he laid down again, and dreamt that his father-in-law stood by him, and spoke as follows; "O son! "will you never take warning till justice overtakes you? "The time will come when you will wish, but too late, that "you had been warned by me."

Unable now to sleep, through the agonies of his mind, he wandered about till morning, and had formed a resolution of returning to his father-in-law; but, as he was going to him, he met an old acquaintance, who paid him a debt of a few shillings; and going to drink with him, Powis soon forgot the virtuous resolutions he had formed.

On parting from this acquaintance, he went to the house of another, where he slept five hours, and then, being extremely hungry, went to a public-house, where he supped, and spent all his money, except eight-pence.

Thus reduced, he resolved to make a fresh attempt on the Chancery-Office, for which purpose he broke through the wall, but found no booty.

In the mean time his father-in-law exerted his utmost endeavours to find him, to consult his safety; and having met with him, told him it would be imprudent for him to stay longer in London, as people began to be suspicious of him: wherefore he advised him to go to Cambridge, and work as a journeyman with a smith of his acquaintance.

Young Powis consenting, the father bought him new clothes, furnished him with some good books, and gave him money to proceed on his journey. He now left the old gentleman; but soon afterwards meeting with six strolling players, one of whom he had formerly known, they sat down to drinking, at which they continued till all Powis's money was spent, and then he sold his new clothes.

Our young adventurer now became so hardened in guilt, that there appeared no prospect of his reformation. One Sunday morning early he attempted to break open the house of a baker in Chancery lane; but the family being alarmed, he was obliged to decamp without his booty, though not without being known. This affair coming to the knowledge of the father, he commissioned some friends to tell the boy, if they should meet him, that he was still ready to receive him with kindness, if he would mend his conduct.

Powis, being now very much distressed, applied to his still generous relation, who advised him to go to the West Indies, as the most effectual method of being out of danger,

and he promised to furnish him with necessaries for the voyage.

Powis, accepting the offer, was properly fitted out and sent on board a ship in the river, where he was confined in the hold to prevent his escaping. In a day or two afterwards he was allowed the liberty of the ship; but most of the seamen now going on shore to take leave of their friends, he resolved to seize the opportunity of making his escape, and of taking something of value with him.

Waiting till it was night, he broke open a chest belonging to a passenger, and having stolen a handsome suit of clothes he took the opportunity of the people on watch going to call others to relieve them, and dropping down the side of the ship, got into a boat; but having only a single oar, he was unable to steer her; and after striving a considerable time, he was obliged to let her drive; the consequence of which was that she ran on shore below Woolwich.

Quitting the boat he set off towards London; but near Deptford he met with two men, who asked him to sell his wig, on which he went into a public-house with them, where they told him that a friend of theirs had been robbed of such a wig, and they suspected him to be the robber.

Powis saw through the artifice, and calling the landlord, desired that a constable might be sent for, to take the villains into custody: but the men immediately threw down their reckoning, and ran off in the utmost haste.

Our adventurer proceeded to London, changed his clothes, and took to his former practice of house-breaking, in which, however, he was remarkably unsuccessful. Strolling one night to the house where he had formerly been at Stockwell, he got in at the window, and stole a bottle of brandy, a great coat, and some other articles; but the family being alarmed, he was pursued and taken.

As he was known by the people of the house, they threatened to convey him to the ship; but he expressed so much dread at the consequence, that they conducted him again to his father-in-law, whose humanity once more induced him to receive the returning prodigal with kindness.

Powis now lived regularly at home about nine weeks, when, having received about a guinea as Christmas-box money, he got into company, and spent the whole, after which he renewed his former practices.

Having concealed himself under some hay in a stable in Chancery-lane, he broke into a boarding-school adjoining to it, whence he stole some books, and a quantity of linen: and soon after this he broke into the house of an attorney, and getting into a garret, struck a light; but some of the family being alarmed, there was an outcry of "Thieves!" A man ascending a ladder, being observed by Powis, he attempted to break through the tiling; but failing in this, the other cried, "There is the thief!" Terrified by these words, he got into a gutter, whence he dropped down to a carpenter's yard adjoining; but could get no farther.

While he was in this situation the carpenter, going into the yard with a candle, took him into custody, and lodged him in the Round-house; but on the following day his father-in-law exerted himself so effectually, that the offence was forgiven: and he was once more taken home to the house of his ever indulgent relation.

After he had been three months at home, the father-in-law was employed to do some business for Mr. Williams, a Welsh gentleman of large fortune, who having brought his lady to London to lay in, she died in child-bed, and it was determined that she should be buried in Wales. Hereupon Powis's father-in-law was sent for to examine all the locks, &c. that the effects might be safe in the absence of Mr. Williams.

Powis being employed as a journeyman in this business, found a box of linen that was too full, on which he took out some articles. In removing the linen, he found a small box remarkably heavy, which, on examination, appeared to contain diamonds, jewels, rings, a gold watch, and other articles, to the amount of more than £200; all which he stole, and put the box in its place. This being done, he called the maid to see that all was safe, and delivered her the key of the larger box.

Powis being possessed of this booty, consulted an ac-

quaintance as to the method of disposing of it; who advised him to melt the gold, and throw the jewels into the Thames. This being agreed to, the acquaintance kept the jewels; and the gold being sold for eleven guineas, Powis had seven of them, which he soon squandered away.

About a fortnight after the effects were stolen Powis was apprehended on suspicion of the robbery, and committed to Newgate; and, being tried at the next sessions, was sentenced to be transported for seven years, the jury having given a verdict that he was guilty of stealing to the value of thirty-nine shillings.

He lay in Newgate a considerable time; till at length his father-in-law, after repeated entreatfes, and a promise of a total reformation of manners, made such interest that he was burnt in the hand, and set at large.

Once more did the father-in-law take this ungracious boy into his house, where he continued about seven months, when meeting with one of his dissolute companions, he spent all his money, and was then afraid to return home.

He now refrained some time from acts of theft, and taking lodgings in an alley in Fleet-street, subsisted by borrowing money of his acquaintance. Soon afterwards, however, he broke open a trunk at his lodgings, and stole some linen, which he pawned for five shillings and sixpence.

On the next day the landlord charged him with the robbery; but not intending to prosecute him, was content with recovering his linen from the pawnbrokers, and took Powis's word for making good the deficient money.

In less than a week after adjusting this affair, our young, but hardened villain broke open the coffee-house in Chancery-lane, which we have already mentioned, and stole a few articles, which produced him about thirty shillings: and soon afterwards he broke into the Chancery-office, where he stole two books, which he sold for half a crown.

On the following evening he went again to the office, and hid himself under the stair-case: but, being heard to cough by a man who had been left to watch, he was taken into custody, and conveyed to a tavern in the neighbourhood; where his father in-law attended, and pleaded so forcibly in

his behalf that he was permitted to go home with him for the night.

On the following day some gentlemen came to examine him, when he denied the commission of a variety of crimes of which he had been charged; but the gentlemen having consented to his escape for this time, advised him not to appear again in that neighbourhood, as the masters in chancery had given strict orders for prosecuting him.

After receiving some good advice from his father-in-law he was recommended to work with a smith in Milford-lane, in the Strand: but Powis had a brother who called upon him a few days afterwards, and told him that a warrant was issued to apprehend him for robbing the Chancery-office; which obliged him to abscond.

Strolling one evening into the Spa-fields, near Islington, some constables apprehended him as a vagrant, and lodged him, with several others, in New Prison; and on the following day most of the prisoners were discharged by a magistrate, and Powis was ordered to be set at liberty; but not having money to pay his fees, he was taken back to the prison, where he remained a few days longer, and was then set at liberty by the charity of a gentleman, who bid him "Thank God, and take care never to get into trouble again."

In a short time after his discharge, he broke into the Earl of Peterborough's house at Chelsea, and stole some trifling articles from the kitchen, which he sold for four shillings: and on the following night, he robbed another house in the same neighbourhood of some effects, which he sold for ten shillings.

This trifling sum being soon spent, he broke open a house in Lincoln's-Inn Fields, where he got a considerable sum of money; and to prevent persons who knew him suspecting that he was the thief, he forged a letter, as coming from his grandfather in Yorkshire, purporting that he had sent him such a sum.

In a short time afterwards, at a kind of ball given by one of his companions, to celebrate his birth-day, Powis fell in love with a girl, who made one of the company.

The girl paying no attention to his addresses, Powis waited on her mother, and, after some conversation with her, was permitted to pay his personal respects to the daughter, to whom he pretended that his grandfather in Yorkshire would leave him a large sum of money; and in proof of what he said he shewed her some counterfeit letters, appearing to have the post-mark on them.

The girl made no objection to him as a husband; but said it would be prudent in him to visit his grandfather, and ask his consent to the match, which would contribute to her peace of mind. On this he left her, and broke open a house that evening, whence he stole a few things, which he sold for fifteen shillings, and calling on her the next day, took his leave, as if preparing for his journey.

His plan was to commit some robbery, by which he might obtain a considerable sum, and then, concealing himself for some time, return to his mistress, and pretend that his grandfather had given him the money.

Going to see the Beggar's Opera he was greatly shocked at the appearance of Macheath on the stage in his fetters, and could not forbear reflecting what might be his own future fate; yet, about a week afterwards, he broke open a cook's shop, and stole some articles, the sale of which produced him a guinea.

On the following day he called at Newgate, and treated the prisoners to the amount of seven shillings, and, on his quitting the prison, met two girls whom he knew; and with them he went to Hampstead, where he treated them to the amount of twelve shillings and sixpence, so that only eighteen pence remained of his last ill-gotten guinea.

On the following day Powis went to the Black Raven, in Fetter-lane, where he observed the landlord put some gold into a drawer, of which he determined, if possible, to possess himself. About midnight he went away, having first stolen the pin that fastened the cellar-window.

Returning at two in the morning, he got into the cellar, and attempting to open the door of the tap-room; but, failing in this, he was about to return by the way he had entered, when a watchman coming by, and seeing the

window open, alarmed the family. Powis now escaped into a carpenter's yard, and hid himself: but the landlord coming down, and several persons attending, he was apprehended; but not till one person had run a sword through his leg, and another had struck him a blow on the head that almost deprived him of his senses; circumstances of severity that could not be justified, as he made no resistance.

The offender was lodged in the Compter for the present, and being removed to Newgate, was brought to his trial at the Old Bailey, convicted of the burglary, and received sentence of death: but the jury considering the cruelty with which he had been treated, recommended him to mercy: however, the royal favour was not extended to him, as he had before been sentenced to transportation.

When brought up to receive sentence, he begged to be represented as an object worthy of the royal favour: but he was told not to expect such indulgence. He likewise wrote to his sweetheart, to exert her influence, which she promised; but could do nothing to serve him.

He was hanged at Tyburn on the 9th of October, 1732, along with William Shelton, at the age of 22 years, after admonishing the spectators to take warning by his fatal end, and expressing the utmost detestation of the irregularities of his life.

WILLIAM ALCOCK,

First Abandoned, and then Murdered, his wife. Executed at Northampton, March 9, 1733.

THIS unnatural and cruel man was an inhabitant of the town of Bourn, in Lincolnshire. He had been married only two years, when he left his wife, who was afflicted with the palsy, giving out that the cause of absence was in consequence of having found her in bed with another man. He

travelled to Colchester, married again, and set up his business, that of a miller, in which he was successful. He employed a man of the name of Peck, as his assistant, but upon some words arising between them, Alcock discharged him, without suffering him to complete the job he had in hand. Peck replied, "I'll do as good a job for you: for I "have heard you have a wife in Lincolnshire, and I'll travel "the kingdom over, till I find her, and send her to you." Upon this he instantly set out, and bent his course in order to fulfil his threat. He inquired at every town he came to in Lincolnshire, until he actually found Mrs. Alcock. In effecting this, he spent nearly two years; and to defray his expenses, he occasionally stopped for a few days to work; and when his wages were expended, in his travels, he worked again; thus persevering until he had accomplished his determined purpose. The parish officers of Bourn, who had the maintenance of the deserted woman to provide, received Peck's information, and dispatched two of the parishioners to Colchester, with whom Alcock entered into a compromise, on the following conditions: to pay down twenty pounds, and within a month thirty pounds more, and to fetch away his wife from Bourn. He accordingly arrived there on the 22d of August, 1732, on a good horse, and a new pillion for his wife to ride on behind him. He, however, tried every means to induce the officers to keep her, offering a yearly sum sufficient for that purpose, and observed that, "she was so disagreeable to him, that he would rather be "hanged, than take her again."

Finding his offers all rejected, he set off with her on the 24th, and on the next day the body of the unfortunate woman was discovered in a ditch under a willow-tree, near Pilsgate, in the parish of Barnack, in Northamptonshire, and about eight miles from Bourn. It appeared that she had been strangled with a small cord, which but just met about her neck; and the pillion was found a little distance from the body. The murderer immediately proceeded to Colchester; and on the 28th was apprehended by officers from Bourn, and the next day fully committed to gaol.

Though convicted on the clearest evidence, yet this ob-

durate man, even to the last moment of his existence, denied the justice of his sentence; and his behaviour, during the short interval allowed prisoners to make their peace with God, evinced the most shocking depravity. He constantly refused the consolation of devotion, and paid no attention to the warnings of a clergyman, who at length desisted from farther exhortations. On the morning of his execution, he drank to intoxication;* yet, on coming out of the prison, he sent for a pint of wine, which being refused him by the sheriff, he would not get into the cart which waited to convey him to execution, until the money given for that purpose was returned to him. On the road to the gallows he sung part of the old song of Robin Hood, adding to each verse, the chorus of derry down, &c. At intervals he swore, kicked, and spurned, at any person who touched the cart. When tied up to the fatal tree, he kicked off his shoes, to avoid a well known proverb; and being told by a person in the cart with him, and who wished, thus late, to reclaim him, that he had much better read and repent, than thus so vilely swear and sing, he struck the book out of this humane man's hands, damned the spectators, and called for wine. During the singing of psalms and reading of prayers, this monster was employed in talking and nodding to his acquaintance; telling some to remember him, others to drink to his good journey; and with his last words, he inveighed against the injustice of his cause!!!

WILLIAM GORDON,

HIGHWAYMAN.

On whose body, after execution, an experiment was made to bring him to life.

THIS malefactor was brought up to the business of a

* The gaoler deserved whipping, who suffered this wretch to be supplied with liquor to such an extent.

butcher; but for twenty years previous to his execution, had been a reputed highwayman. He was tried at Chelmsford for a desperate attack and robbery on Epping Forest, but escaped conviction by proving an alibi. He brought a number of evidences to prove that he was in Ireland when this robbery was committed.

William Gordon was convicted at the Old Bailey, of a highway robbery on Mr. Peters, under-treasurer of the Temple, between Knightsbridge and Hyde-park Corner, whom he robbed of his hat, wig, watch, and a gold ring; and being at the time in a state of intoxication, he was soon apprehended, and had no other plea to offer, but that he was drunk.

What rendered this criminal's case sufficiently remarkable to find a place in these volumes, was a report circulated that he had cut his throat, just before he was carried out to execution, and that a surgeon had sewed it up. The cause of this report was as follows:

Mr. Chovot, a surgeon, having, by frequent experiments on dogs, discovered, that opening the windpipe would prevent the fatal consequences of being hanged by the neck, communicated it to Gordon, who consented to the experiment being made on him. Accordingly, pretending to take his last leave of him, the surgeon secretly made an incision in his windpipe; and the effect this produced on the malefactor was, that when he stopt his mouth, nostrils, and ears, air sufficient to prolong life, issued from the cavity. When he was hanged, he was observed to retain life, after the others executed with him were dead. His body, after hanging three quarters of an hour, was cut down, and carried to a house in Edgeware road, where Chovot was an attendance, who immediately opened a vein, which bled freely, and soon after the culprit opened his mouth and groaned. He, however, died, but it was the opinion of those present at the experiment, that had he been cut down only five minutes sooner, life would have returned. He suffered along with James Ward and William Keys, for a highway, and with William Norman, for a street robbery, on the 27th of April, 1733.

A month after the execution of Gordon, John Davis, who had frequently robbed in company with him, was brought to execution on the same tree from which Gordon was hanged. Davis feigned himself sick, and intreated the sheriff that he might not be tied in the cart on his road to Tyburn, and which was humanely granted. When the executioner was fastening the rope round the neck of John Jones, another malefactor to be then executed, Davis jumped out of the cart, made his way through the astonished spectators, and ran over two fields; but being knocked down by a countryman, he was brought back, tied up, and hanged. He confessed having committed various daring robberies along with the notorious old offender, Gordon.

CAPTAIN JOHN PORTEOUS,

Convicted of Murder, but murdered by the mob.

THE fate of Captain Porteous engaged a nation's attention. Though by the law condemned to die, yet was he most foully murdered by a lawless mob. The royal proclamation was issued, wherein a large reward was offered for the apprehension of the murderers; and the magistrates of Edinburgh, the scene of the murder, were summoned to answer for their neglect, in not quelling the riot; fined, and rendered incapable of acting again in any judicial capacity. In such a mob as that which seized Porteous, it was difficult to fix upon an individual, and the deceased having rendered himself obnoxious to the people, the affair there rested.

John Porteous was born of indigent parents, near the city of Edinburgh, who bound him apprentice to a tailor, with whom, after the expiration of his apprenticeship, he worked as a journeyman.

Porteous was soon noticed by several reputable gentlemen, as a young man of good address and fine accomplishments, and one whom they entertained a desire to serve.

It happened at this time that a gentleman who had been lord provost of Edinburgh, growing tired of his mistress, wished to disengage himself from her in a genteel manner: and knowing Porteous to be very poor, he proposed his taking her off his hands, by making her his wife.

When the proposition was first made to the lady she rejected it with much disdain, thinking it a great degradation to match with a journeyman taylor: but on the gentleman's promising her a fortune of five hundred pounds, she consented, and they were married accordingly.

Porteous now commenced master, and met with good success for some time; but being much addicted to company, he neglected his business: by which means he lost many of his customers. His wife, in consequence, was obliged to apply to her old friend the provost, to make some other provision for them.

In Edinburgh there are three companies of men, of twenty-five each, who are employed to keep the peace, and take up all offenders, whom they keep in custody till examined by a magistrate. An officer is appointed to each of these companies, whom they style captain, with a salary of eighty pounds a year and a suit of scarlet uniform, which in that part of the world is reckoned very honourable.

A vacancy happening by the death of one of these captains, the provost immediately appointed his friend Porteous to fill up the place; and the latter being now advanced to honour, forgot all his former politeness, for which he was so much esteemed when a tradesman; and assumed all the consequences of a man in authority.

If a riot happened in the city, Porteous was generally made choice of by the magistrates to suppress it, he being a man of resolute spirit, and unacquainted with fear. On these occasions he would generally exceed the bounds of his commission, and would treat the delinquents with the utmost cruelty, by knocking them down with his musquet, and frequently breaking legs and arms.

If sent to quell a disturbance in a house of ill fame, notwithstanding he was a most abandoned debauchee himself,

he would take pleasure in exposing the characters of all those he found there, thereby destroying the peace of many families: he would treat the unhappy prostitutes with the greatest inhumanity, and even drag them to a prison, though many of them had been seduced by himself.

Amongst the many instances of cruelty he committed, we shall mention the following, because it procured him the universal hatred of the people in that city.

A vacancy happening in the lectureship of a neighbouring church, two young gentlemen were candidates; and having each an equal number of votes, the dispute was referred to the presbytery; who declared in favour of Mr. Dawson. The other candidate, Mr. Wotherspoon, appealed to the synod, who reversed the order of the presbytery. As the parishioners were much exasperated, and a tumult being apprehended at the church on the day Mr. Wotherspoon was to preach his first sermon, Porteous was ordered there to keep the peace, but finding, on his arrival, Mr. Dawson had got possession of the pulpit, he went up the steps without the least ceremony, seized him by the collar, and dragged him down like a thief. In consequence of the wounds he received at this time, Mr. Dawson died a few weeks after.

Mr. Wotherspoon coming in at the time of the affray, Mr. Dawson's friends were so enraged, that they immediately fell on him, whom they beat in such a terrible manner, that he also died about the same time as Mr. Dawson.

Thus the lives of two amiable young gentlemen were sacrificed to the brutality of this inhuman monster. Many men, women, and children, were also much wounded in the affray; yet this wretch escaped unpunished: no notice being taken of the many instances of his barbarity.

Nothing gave more pleasure to this fellow than his being employed to quell riots, which, to the disgrace of the magistrates, he was encouraged in. On these occasions he never wanted an opportunity of exercising his savage disposition.

The condemnation and death of Porteous happened in the following most extraordinary manner.

Smuggling was so much practised in Scotland at that

time, that no laws could restrain it. The smugglers assembled in large bodies, so that the revenue-officers could not attack them without endangering their lives.

The most active persons in striving to suppress these unlawful practices was Mr. Stark, collector for the county of Fife, who being informed that one Andrew Wilson had a large quantity of contraband goods at his house, persuaded a number of men to accompany him: and they seized the goods, and safely lodged them (as they thought) in the Custom-House: but Wilson being a man of an enterprising spirit, and conceiving himself injured, went in company with one Robertson, and some more of his gang, to the Custom-House, when, breaking open the doors, they recovered their goods, which they brought off in carts, in defiance of all opposition.

Mr. Stark hearing that such a daring insult had been committed, dispatched an account thereof to the Barons of the Exchequer, who immediately applied to the lord Justice Clark, his lordship issued his warrant to the sheriff of Fife, commanding him to assemble all the people in his jurisdiction to seize the delinquents, and replace the goods.

In consequence of the above order, many were apprehended, but all discharged again for want of evidence, except Wilson and Robertson, who were both found guilty and sentenced to die.

A custom prevailed in Scotland at that time, of taking the condemned criminals to church every Sunday, under the care of three or four of the city guards. The above two criminals were accordingly taken to one of the churches on the Sunday before they were to suffer; when, just getting within the door, Wilson (though handcuffed) assisted in his companion's escape, by seizing hold of one soldier with his teeth, and keeping the others from turning upon him, while he cried out to Robertson to run.

Robertson accordingly took to his heels, and the streets being crowded with people going to church, he passed uninterrupted, and got out at one of the city gates just as they were going to shut it: a custom constantly observed during divine service.

The city being now alarmed, Porteous was immediately dispatched in search of him, but all in vain, Robertson meeting with a friend who knocked off his handcuffs, and procured him a horse; and the same evening he got on board a vessel at Dunbar, which landed him safe in Holland.

We are informed that, in the year 1756, he was living, and kept a public-house with great credit, near the bridge at Rotterdam.

On the following Wednesday a temporary gallows was erected in the grass-market, for the execution of Wilson, who was ordered to be conducted there by fifty men, under the command of Porteous.

Porteous being apprehensive an attempt would be made to rescue the prisoner, represented to the provost the necessity there was for soldiers to be drawn up ready to preserve the peace. On which five companies of the Welsh fuzileers, commanded by a major, were ordered to be in readiness in the lawn-market, near the place of execution.

No disturbance arising, the prisoner finished his devotions, ascended the ladder, was turned off, and continued hanging the usual time; at the expiration of which, the hangman going up the ladder to cut him down, a stone struck him on the nose, and caused it to bleed. This stone was immediately followed by many others, at which Porteous was so much exasperated that, he instantly called out to his men "Fire and be damned;" discharging his own piece at the same time, and shooting a young man, who was apprentice to a confectioner, dead on the spot.

Some of the soldiers more humanely fired over the heads of the people; but unfortunately killed two or three who were looking out at the windows. Others of the soldiers wantonly fired amongst the feet of the mob, by which many were so disabled as to be afterwards obliged to suffer amputation.

Porteous now endeavoured to draw off his men, as the mob grew exceedingly outrageous, throwing stones, with every thing else they could lay their hands on, and continuing to press on the soldiers; on which Porteous, with two of his men, turned about and fired, killing three more of the

people, which amounted to nine in the whole that were left dead on the spot; and many wounded.

A serjeant was sent by the major of the Welsh fuzileers to enquire into the cause of the disturbance, but the mob was so outrageous that he could gain no intelligence. Porteous, being assisted by the Welsh fuzileers, at last conducted his men to the guard, when, being sent for by the provost, he passed a long examination, and was committed to prison in order to take his trial for murder.

On the 6th of July, 1736, the trial came on before the lords of justiciary, previous to which Porteous made a judicial confession that the people were killed as mentioned in the indictments; but pleaded self-defence. His council then stated the following point of law to be determined by the judges, previous to the jury being charged with the prisoner:

"Whether a military officer with soldiers under his command, being assaulted by the populace, should fire, or "order his men to fire, was not acting consistent with the "nature of self-defence, according to the laws of civilized "nations?

The council being ordered to plead to the question by the court, they pronounced, as their opinion, "That if it was "proved that captain Porteous either fired a gun, or caused "one or more to be fired, by which any person or persons "was or were killed, and if the said firing happened without orders from a magistrate properly authorised, then it would be murder in the eye of the law."

Thus the question being decided against him, and the jury impanelled, forty-four witnesses were examined for and against the prosecution.

The prisoner being now called on for his defence, his council insisted that the magistrates had ordered him to support the execution of Wilson, and repel force by force, being apprehensive of a rescue; that powder and ball had been given them for the same purpose, with orders to load their pieces.

They insisted also, that he only meant to intimidate the people by threats, and actually knocked down one of his

own men for presenting his piece; that finding the men would not obey orders, he drew off as many as he could; that he afterwards heard a firing in the rear, contrary to his orders. That in order to know who had fired he would not suffer their pieces to be cleaned till properly inspected, and that he never attempted to escape, though he had the greatest opportunity, and might have effected it with the utmost ease.

They farther insisted, that admitting some excesses had been committed, it could not amount to murder, as he was in the lawful discharge of his duty, and that it could not be supposed to be done with premeditated malice.

In answer to this the council for the crown argued, that the trust reposed in the prisoner ceased when the execution was over; that he was then no longer an officer employed for that purpose for which the fire-arms had been loaded, and that the reading of the riot-act only could justify their firing, in case a rescue had been actually attempted.

The prisoners council replied, that the magistrates, whose duty it was to have read the act, had deserted the soldiery, and took refuge in a house for their own security, and that it was hard for men to suffer themselves to be knocked on the head when they had lawful weapons put into their hands to defend themselves.

The charge being delivered to the jury, they retired for a considerable time, when they brought him in guilty, and he received sentence of death.

The king being then at Hanover, and much interest being made to save the prisoner, the queen, by the advice of her council, granted a respite till his majesty's return to England. The respite was only procured one week before his sentence was to be put in execution, of which, when the populace were informed, such a scheme of revenge was meditated as is perhaps unprecedented.

On the seventh of September, between nine and ten in the evening, a large body of men entered the city of Edinburgh, and seized the arms belonging to the guard; they then patrolled the streets, crying out, "All those who dare

" avenge innocent blood, let them come here." They then shut the gates, and placed guards at each.

The main body of the mob, all disguised, marched in the mean time to the prison; when finding some difficulty in breaking open the door with hammers, they immediately set fire to it; taking great care that the flames should not spread beyond their proper bounds. The outer door was hardly consumed before they rushed in, and, ordering the keeper to open the door of the captain's apartment, cried out, " Where is the villain, Porteous?" He replied, " Here I am; what do you want with me?" To which they answered, that they meant to hang him in the Grass-Market the place where he had shed so much innocent blood.

His expostulations were all in vain, they seized him by the legs and arms, and dragged him instantly to the place of execution.

On their arrival, they broke open a shop to find a rope suitable to their purpose, which they immediately fixed round his neck, then throwing the other end over a dyer's pole, hoisted him up; when he, endeavouring to save himself, fixed his hands between the halter and his neck, which being observed by some of the mob, one of them struck him with an axe, which obliged him to quit his hold, they soon put an end to his life.

When they were satisfied he was dead, they immediately dispersed to their several habitations, unmolested themselves, and without molesting any one else.

Thus ended the life of Captain John Porteous, a man possessed of such great qualifications that, had they been properly applied, would have rendered him an ornament to his country, and made him exceedingly useful in a military capacity. His uncommon spirit and invincible courage would have done honour to the greatest hero of antiquity. But when advanced to power, he became intoxicated with pride, and instead of being the admiration of, he became despised and hated by, his fellow-citizens. The fate of this unhappy man, it is hoped, will be a caution to those

in power not to abuse it; but, by an impartial distribution of justice, render themselves worthy members of society. He was murdered at Edinburgh, September 7th, 1736.

JOHN RICHARDSON and RICHARD COYLE,

Executed at Execution-Dock, Jan. 25, 1738, for Piracy and Murder.

THE crime of piracy is generally marked by murder. Richardson, to both these shocking characters, added that of a swindler, of no mean talents in deception. His memory will justly be particularly execrated by your female readers, for it will be found that, through the most consummate hypocrisy, he too often succeeded in seducing, and then abandoning, several of their sex.

John Richardson was an American, having been born at the city of New York, where he went to school until he was fourteen years old; he was then put under the care of his brother, who was a cooper; but not liking that business, he sailed on board a merchant-ship, commanded by his name-sake, Captain Richardson.

After one voyage, he served five years to a carpenter; but having made an illicit connection with his master's daughter, who became pregnant, he quitted his service, and entered on board a ship bound to Jamaica; but on his arrival there he was impressed, put on board a man of war, and brought to England.

The ship's crew being paid at Chatham, he came to London, took lodging in Horsley-down, and soon spent all his money. On this he entered as boatswain on board a vessel bound to the Baltic; but being weary of his situation, he soon quitted that station, having first concerted and executed the following scheme of fraud.

Knowing that there was a merchant in the country, with whom the captain had dealings, he went to a tavern and

wrote a letter, as from the captain, desiring that the merchant would send him a hundred rix dollars. This letter he carried himself, and received the money from the merchant, who said he had more at the captain's service if it was wanted.

Being possessed of this sum, he, the next day, embarked on board a Dutch vessel bound to Amsterdam; and soon after his arrival connected himself with a woman whose husband had sailed as a mate of a Dutch East-India ship. With this woman he cohabited about eight months, when she told him that it would be necessary for him to decamp, as she daily expected her husband to return from his voyage.

Richardson agreed to depart, but first determined to rob her; and having persuaded her to go to the play, he took her to a tavern afterwards, where he plied her with liquor till she was perfectly intoxicated. This being done, he attended her home, and having got her to bed, and found her fast asleep, he took the keys out of her pocket, and unlocking the warehouse, stole India goods to the amount of two hundred pounds, which he conveyed to a lodging he had taken to receive them. He then replaced the keys; but finding some that were smaller, he with those opened her drawers, and took out sixty pounds. Some years after this, he saw this woman at Amsterdam, but she made no complaint of the robbery; by which it may reasonably be supposed that she was afraid her husband might suspect her former illicit connection.

Having put his stolen goods on board one of the Rotterdam boats, he sailed for that place, where he found the captain of a vessel bound to New England, with whom he sailed at the expiration of four days.

On their arrival at Boston, Richardson went to settle about fifty miles up the country, in expectation that the property he possessed might procure him a wife of some fortune. Having taken his lodgings at a farmer's, he deposited his goods in a kind of warehouse.

It being now near the Christmas holidays, many of the country people solicited that he would keep the festival with

them. His offers were so numerous, that he scarce knew how to determine; but at length accepted the invitation of a Mr. Brown, to which he was influenced by his having three daughters, and four maid-servants, all of them very agreeable young women.

Richardson made presents of India handkerchiefs to all the girls, and so far ingratiated himself into their favour, that in a short time all of them were pregnant. But before this circumstance was discovered, there happened to be a wedding, to which the daughter of a justice of the peace was invited as a bride-maid, and Richardson as a bride-man.

Our adventurer, soon becoming intimate with the young lady, persuaded her to go and see his lodgings and warehouse, and offered to make her a present of any piece of goods which she might deem worth her acceptance. At length she fixed on a piece of chintz, and carried it home with her.

Two days afterwards Richardson wrote to her, and her answer being such as flattered his wishes, he likewise wrote to her father, requesting his permission to pay his addresses to his daughter. The old gentleman readily admitted his visits, and, at the end of three months, gave his consent that the young people should be united in wedlock.

There being no licences for marriage in that country, it is the custom to publish the banns three successive Sundays in the church. On the first day no objection was made; but on the second Sunday all the girls from the house where he had spent his Christmas, made their appearance, to forbid the banns, each of them declaring that she was with child by the intended husband.

Hereupon Richardson slipped out of the church, leaving the people astonished at the singularity of the circumstance: but he had reason to suppose that it would not be long before he should hear from the father of the young lady; whom he had already seduced.

In a few days he received a letter from the old gentleman, begging that he would decline his visits, as his conduct furnished a subject of conversation for the whole country; and with his request Richardson very cheerfully

complied; but in about four months he was sent for, when the justice offered him 300l. currency, to take his daughter as a wife. He seemed to hesitate at first; but at length consenting, the young lady and he went to a village at the distance of forty miles, where the banns were regularly published, and the marriage took place, before the other parties were apprized of it.

However, in a little time after the wedding, he was arrested by the friends of the girls whom he had debauched, in order to compel him to give security for the maintenance of the future children; on which his father-in-law engaged that he should not abscond, and paid him his wife's fortune.

Having thus possessed himself of the money, and being sick of his new connection, he told his wife and her relations that, not being fond of a country life, he would go to New-York, and build him a ship, and would return at the expiration of three months. The family having no suspicion of his intentions, took leave of him with every mark of affection: but he never went near them any more.

Having previously sent his effects to Boston he went to that place, where he soon spent his money amongst the worst kind of company, and no person being willing to trust him, he was reduced to great distress. It now became necessary that he should work for his bread; and being tolerably well skilled in ship-building, he got employment under a master-builder who was a Quaker, who treated him with the greatest indulgence.

The Quaker was an elderly man, who had a young wife with whom Richardson wished to be better acquainted; on which he one day quitted his work, and went home to the house; but he had but just arrived there when he was followed by the old man who came in search of him, and found him talking to his wife. The Quaker asked him what business he had there, and why he did not keep at his work. Richardson replied, that he only came home for an augur: to which the Quaker said, "Ah! friend John, I do not much "like thee: my wife knows nothing of thy tools, and I fear "thou hadst some evil thoughts in thy head."

Hereupon Richardson went back to his work, without making any reply, but soon afterwards demanded his wages. The Quaker hesitated to pay him, hinting that he was apprehensive that his wife had paid him already: on which Richardson said he would sue him for the debt, and desired him to consider, that if he made such an excuse in open court, he would be disgraced through the country.

On this the Quaker paid his demand, but absolutely forbad him ever to come within his house again; and Richardson promised to obey, and intended to have complied with the injunction.

About eight days afterwards the old gentleman having some business up the country to purchase timber, desired his young wife to accompany him, to prevent any ill consequences that might arise in his absence. To avoid this journey the lady feigned an indisposition, and took to her bed.

The husband had not been long gone before Richardson, meeting the maid servant in the street, asked after the health of her mistress, who, the girl said, wanted to see him; and he promised to wait upon her about nine in the evening.

Punctual to his engagement, he attended the lady and renewed his visits to her till the return of her husband was apprehended, when he broke open a chest, and stole about seventy pounds, and immediately agreed with captain Jones for his passage to Philadelphia.

When he arrived at the last mentioned place, he took lodgings at the house of a widow who had two daughters; and paying his addresses to the mother, he was so successful, that for four months, while he continued there, he acted as if he had been master of the house.

After his intimacy with the mother had continued some time, he became attached to one of the daughters, and on a Sunday, when the rest of the family was absent, found an opportunity of being alone with her; but the mother returning at this juncture, interrupted their conversation, and expressed her anger in the most violent terms.

Nor was this all; for when she was alone with the offender

she severely reproached him; but he made his peace by pretending an uncommon attachment to her; yet within a month she found him taking equal freedoms with her other daughter. Incensed at this she became outrageous, and told him that the consequence of his connexion with the other girl, was that she was already pregnant. Richardson now quarrelled in his turn, and told her that if her daughter was breeding she must procure her a husband, for he would have nothing to do with her.

At length, when the old woman's passions were in some degree calmed, he represented to her the impossibility of his marrying both her daughters; but said that if she could procure a husband for one of them, he would take the other.

The old lady soon procured a young man to marry one of her daughters, and then the mother constantly teazed Richardson to wed the other, which he steadily refused to do unless she would advance him a sum of money. She hesitated for some time; but at length said she would give him a hundred pounds, and half her plate; on which he consented, and the marriage was solemnized; but he had no sooner possessed himself of this little fortune than he embarked on board a ship bound for South Carolina.

Within a month after his arrival in this colony he became acquainted with one captain Roberts, with whom he sailed as mate and carpenter to Jamaica, and during the voyage was treated in the most friendly manner. The business at Jamaica being dispatched, they returned to Carolina.

The owner of the ship living about ten miles up the country, and the winter advancing, the captain fixed on Richardson as a proper person to sleep on board, and take care of the vessel. This he did for some time, till about a week before Christmas, when he was invited to an entertainment to be given on occasion of the birth-day of his owner's only daughter.

A moderate share of skill in singing and dancing recommended Richardson to the notice of the company, and in particular to that of the young lady, by which he hoped to profit on a future occasion.

In the following month it happened that a wedding was to be celebrated at the house of a friend of the owner, on which occasion Richardson was sent for; and when he appeared, the young lady welcomed him, wishing that he would oblige the company with a dance; to which he replied, that he should be happy to oblige the company in general, and her in particular.

Richardson being a partner with the young lady during the dancing at the wedding, begged leave to conduct her home; and when the ceremonies of the wedding were ended, he had the honour to attend her to her abode. When they had got into the midst of a thick wood, he pretended to be ill, and said he must get off his horse, and sit down on the ground. She likewise dismounted, and they walked together under the shade of a chesnut-tree, where they remained till the approach of evening, when he conducted her home, after having received very convincing proofs of her kindness.

Going to his ship for that night, he went to her father's house on the following day, and found an opportunity of speaking to her, when he entreated her to admit of his occasional visits; but she said there were so many negro servants about the house that it would be impossible. On this he said he would conduct her to the ship, when the family were asleep, and the girl foolishly consenting to this proposal, the intrigue was carried on for a fortnight, when she became so apprehensive of a discovery that she would go no longer.

But the lovers being uneasy asunder, they bribed an old female negro, who constantly let Richardson into the young lady's chamber when the rest of the family were retired to rest.

At length the mother discovering that her daughter was with child, and charged her to declare who was the father, on which she confessed that it was Richardson. The mother acquainting her husband with the circumstance, the old gentleman sent for Richardson to supper, and after rallying him on his prowess, told him that he must marry and support his daughter. Richardson said it was out of

his power to support her; but the father promising his assistance, the marriage took place.

Soon afterwards the old gentleman gave his son-in-law the ship, and a good cargo, as a marriage portion, and Richardson embarked on a trading voyage to Barbadoes: but he had not been many days at sea when a violent storm arose, in which he lost his vessel and cargo, and he and his crew were obliged to take to the boat to save their lives.

After driving some days at sea, they were taken up by a vessel which carried them to St. Kitt's, where Richardson soon met with a captain Jones, who told him that the wife he had married in Pennsylvania had died of a broken heart. This circumstance added to that of the loss of his ship, drove him distracted; so that he was confined to his chamber for four months.

On his recovery, he went mate with the captain who had carried him to St. Kitt's; but quitting this station in about five months, he sailed to Antigua, where a young gentleman who happened to be in company with Richardson, was so delighted with his skill in dancing a horn-pipe, that he invited him to his father's house, where he was entertained for a fortnight with the utmost hospitality.

One day as he was rambling with the young gentleman, to take a view of some of the plantations, Richardson stopped on a sudden, and putting his hand to his pocket, pretended to have lost his purse, containing twenty pistoles. The young gentleman told him there was more money in Antigua. "True, (said Richardson,) but I am a stranger "here; I am a Creolian from Meovis."—To this the other asked, "Do you belong to the Richardsons at Meovis? I know their character well."

Our adventurer, knowing that the governor of Meovis was named Richardson, had the confidence to declare that he was his son; on which the other exclaimed, "You his "son, and want money in Antigua; No, no; only draw "a bill upon your father, and I will engage, that my "father shall help you to the money."

The project of raising money in this manner delighted

Richardson, whom the young gentleman introduced to his father, who was no sooner acquainted with the pretended loss, than he expressed a willingness to supply him with a hundred pistoles, on which he drew a bill on his supposed father for the above-mentioned sum, and received the money.

About a week afterwards he wrote a letter to his imputed father, informing him how generously he had been treated by his friends in Antigua, and subscribed himself his dutiful son. This letter he entrusted to the care of a person in whom he could confide, with strict orders not to deliver it; and when as much time had elapsed as might warrant the expectation of an answer, he employed the mate of a ship to write a letter to the old gentleman, as from his supposed father, thanking him for his civilities to his son.

The gentleman was greatly pleased at the receipt of this letter, which he said contained more compliments than his conduct had deserved: and he told Richardson that he might have any farther sum of money that he wanted. On this our adventurer, who was determined to take every advantage of the credulity of his new acquaintance, drew another bill for a hundred pistoles, and soon afterwards decamped.

He now embarked on board a vessel bound to Jamaica, and on his arrival at Port-Royal, purchased a variety of goods of a Jew merchant, which, with other goods that the Jew gave him credit for, he shipped on board a ship for Carthagena, where he disposed of them: but he never went back to discharge his debt to the Jew.

From Carthagena he sailed to Vera Cruz, and thence to England, where he took lodgings with one Thomas Ballard, who kept a public-house at Chatham. Now it happened that Ballard had a brother who, having gone abroad many years before, had never been heard of. Richardson bearing a great resemblance to this brother, the publican conceived a strong idea that he was the same, and asked him if his name was not Ballard. At first he answered in the negative; but finding the warm prepossession of

the other, and expecting to make some advantage of his credulity, he at length acknowledged that he was his brother.

Richardson now lived in a sumptuous manner, and without any expense, and Ballard was never more uneasy than when any one doubted of the reality of the relationship; at length Ballard told Richardson that their two sisters were living at Sittingbourne, and persuaded him to go with him on a visit to them. Richardson readily agreed; but the two sisters had no recollection of the brother; however, Ballard persuaded them that he was the real brother who had been so long absent: on which great rejoicings were made on account of his safe arrival in his native country.

After a week of festivity it became necessary for Ballard to return to his business at Chatham: but the sisters unwilling to part with their newly-found brother, persuaded him to remain awhile at Sittingbourne, and told him that their mother, who had been extremely fond of him, had left him twenty pounds, and the mare on which she used to ride; and in a short time he received the legacies.

During his residence with his presumptive sisters, he became acquainted with Anne and Sarah Knolding, and finding that their relations were deceased, and that Anne was left guardian to her sister, he paid his addresses to the former, who was weak enough to trust him with her money, bonds, writings, and the deeds of her estate. Hereupon he immediately went to Chatham, where he mortgaged the estate for 300l. and thence went to Gravesend, where he shipped himself on board a vessel bound to Venice.

On his arrival in that place, he hired a house, and lived unemployed till he had spent the greater part of his money, when he sold off his effects, and went to Ancona, where he became acquainted with captain Benjamin Hartley, who had come thither with a lading of pilchards, and on board whose ship was Richard Coyle, the accomplice of this foul murder.

Mr. Hartley being in want of a carpenter, Richardson agreed to serve him in that capacity; and the ship sailed on a voyage to Turkey, where the captain took in a lading of

corn, and sailed for Leghorn. On the first night of this voyage, Coyle, who was chief mate, came on the deck to Richardson, and asked him if he would be concerned in a secret plot, to murder the captain, and seize the vessel. Richardson at first hesitated; but at length he agreed to take his share in the villany.

The plan being concerted, they went to the captain's cabin about midnight, with an intention of murdering him; but getting from them, he ran up the shrouds, whither he was followed by Richardson, and a seaman named Larson. The captain descended too quick for them, and as soon as he gained the deck, Coyle attempted to shoot him with a blunderbuss, which missing fire, Mr. Hartley wrested it from his hands, and threw it into the sea.

This being done, Coyle and some others of the sailors threw the captain over board; but, as he hung by the ship's side, Coyle gave him several blows, which rather stunned him; but as he did not let go his hold, Richardson seized an axe, with which he struck him so forcibly that he dropped into the sea.

Coyle now assumed the command of the ship, and Richardson being appointed mate, they sailed towards the island of Malta, where they intended to have refitted; but some of the crew objecting to putting in there, they agreed to go to Minorca. When they came opposite Cape Cona, on the coast of Barbary, the weather became so foul that they were compelled to lay to for several days, after which they determined to sail for Foviniano, an island under the dominion of Spain.

When they arrived at the place, they sent on shore for water and fresh provisions; but as they had come from Turkey, and could not produce letters of health, it was not possible for them to procure what they wanted.

It had been a practice with the pirates to keep watch alternately, in company with some boys who were on board; but during the night, while they lay at anchor off this place, two of the men destined to watch fell asleep: on which two of the boys hauled up a boat, and went on shore, where they informed the governor of what had passed on board.

One of the pirates who should have watched being awaked, he ran and called Richardson whom he informed that the boys were gone; on which Richardson said it was time for them to be gone likewise; on which they hauled up the long-boat without loss of time, and putting on board such things as would be immediately necessary, they set sail, in the hope of making their escape.

In the interim the governor sent down a party of soldiers to take care of the ship, and prevent the escape of the pirates; but it being very dark they could not discern the vessel, though she lay very near the shore: but when they heard the motion of the oars, they fired at the pirates, who all escaped unwounded.

Steering towards Tunis, they stopped at a small island called Maritime, where they diverted themselves with killing of rabbits: for though the place is apparently little more than a barren rock, yet it so abounds with these animals, that a man may easily kill a thousand in a day.

Leaving this place, they stopped twelve miles short of Tunis, where Richardson was apprehended, and carried before the governor, who asking whence he came? he told him that he was master of a vessel, which having been lost off the coast of Sardinia, he was necessitated to take to his long-boat, and had been driven thither by distress of weather.

This story being credited, the governor seemed concerned for the fate of him and his companions, and recommended them to the house of an Italian, where they might be accommodated; and in the mean time sent to the English consul to inform him that his countrymen were in distress.

When they had been about a fortnight at this place, Richardson sold the long-boat, and having divided the produce amongst his companions, he went to Tunis, to be examined by the English consul, to whom he told the same story that he had previously told to the governor: on which the consul ordered him to make a formal protest thereof for the benefit of the owners, and their own security.

Hereupon the consul supplied him with money, which he shared with his companions. Coyle kept himself continually drunk with the money he had received, and during his intoxication spoke so freely of their transactions, that he was taken into custody by order of the consul, and sent to England; and Richardson would have been apprehended; but, being upon his guard, and learning what had happened to his companion, he embarked on board a ship bound for Tripoli, where he arrived in safety.

At this place he drew a bill on an English merchant at Leghorn, by which he obtained twenty pounds, and then embarked for the island of Malta; he sailed from thence to Saragossa, in the island of Sicily, whence going to Messina, he was known by a gentleman who had lived at Ancona, and remembering his engaging in the service of captain Hartley, had him apprehended on suspicion of the murder.

He remained in prison at Messina nine months; on which he wrote a petition to the king of Naples, setting forth that he had been a servant to his father, and praying the royal orders for his release. In consequence of this petition the governor of Messina was commanded to set him at liberty, on which he travelled to Rome, and thence to Civita Vecchia, where he hoped to get employment on board the Pope's gallies, in consequence of his having turned Roman Catholic.

While he was at Civita Vecchia he became known to captain Blomet, who invited him, with other company, on board his ship; when the company were gone, the captain shewed him a letter, in which he was described as one of the murderers of captain Hartley. Richardson denied the charge; but the captain calling down some hands, he was put in irons, and sent to Leghorn, whence he was transmitted to Lisbon, where he remained three months, and being then put on board the packet-boat, and brought to Falmouth, he was conveyed to London; and being lodged first in the Marshalsea, was removed to Newgate, and being tried at the Old Bailey, received sentence of death, along with Coyle, for the murder of Captain Hartley.

Richard Coyle was a native of Devonshire, and born near Exeter. His parents having given him such an education as was proper to qualify him for a maritime life, he was apprenticed to the master of a trading-vessel, and served his time with reputation to himself, and satisfaction to his employer.

When his time was expired, he made several voyages in ships of war, and likewise served on board several merchantmen; and he had also been master of a ship for seventeen years, generally sailing from and returning to, the port of London. In this command he maintained a good character; but meeting with misfortunes he was reduced to serve as mate, in different ships; and at length sailed with captain Hartley, bound to the Levant, when he became acquainted with Richardson as already related.

After conviction Coyle acknowledged the equity of the sentence against him, and in some letters to his friends confessed his penitence for the crime of which he had been guilty, and his readiness to yield his life as an atonement for his offences.

With respect to Richardson, he seemed regardless of the dreadful fate that awaited him; and having lived a life of vice and dissipation, appeared altogether indifferent to the manner in which that life should end.

The above mentioned malefactors were hanged at Execution-dock, on the 25th of January, 1738.

With regard to Coyle we do not hear that he had been guilty of any notorious crime, but that for which he died; but the life of Richardson was such a continued scene of irregularity, deception, fraud, and vice, as is almost unequalled. His treachery to the many unhappy women, of whom he pretended to be enamoured, was alone deserving of the fate which finally fell to his lot.

MARY YOUNG, alias JENNY DIVER,

(The Head of a numerous Gang of Thieves, of every Description, and may be called the female Macheath.) Executed at Tyburn, March 18, 1740.

A CHARACTER more skilled in the various arts of imposition and robbery we cannot expect to present to our readers than that of Mary Young. Her depredations, executed with the courage of a man, and the softer deceptions of an artful female surpass any thing which we have, as yet, come to in our researches into crimes and punishments.

Mary Young was born in the North of Ireland; her parents were in indigent circumstances; and they dying while she was in a state of infancy, she had no recollection of them.

At about ten years of age she was taken into the family of an ancient gentlewoman, who had known her father and mother, and who caused her to be instructed in reading, writing, and needlework; and in the latter she attained to a proficiency unusual to girls of her age.

Soon after she had arrived to her fifteenth year, a young man, servant to a gentleman who lived in the same neighbourhood, made pretensions of love to her; but the old lady being apprized of his views, declared that she would not consent to their marriage, and positively forbad him to repeat his visits at her house.

Notwithstanding the great care and tenderness with which she was treated, Mary formed the resolution of deserting her generous benefactor, and of directing her course towards the metropolis of England; and the only obstacle to this design was, the want of money for her support till she could follow some honest means of earning a subsistence.

She had no strong prepossession in favour of the young man who had made a declaration of love to her; but she, determining to make his passion subservient to the purpose she had conceived, promised to marry him on condition of his taking her to London. He joyfully embraced this pro-

posal, and immediately engaged for a passage in a vessel bound for Liverpool.

A short time before the vessel was to sail, the young man robbed his master of a gold watch and eighty guineas, and then joined the companion of his flight, who was already on board the ship, vainly imagining that his infamously acquired booty would contribute to the happiness he should enjoy with his expected bride. The ship arrived at the destined port in two days: and Mary being indisposed in consequence of her voyage, her companion hired a lodging in the least frequented part of the town, where they lived a short time in the character of man and wife, but avoiding all intercourse with their neighbours; the man being apprehensive that measures would be pursued for rendering him amenable to justice.

Mary being restored to health, they agreed for a passage in a waggon that was to set out for London in a few days. On the day preceding that fixed for their departure, they accidentally called at a public-house, and the man being observed by a messenger dispatched in pursuit of him from Ireland, he was immediately taken into custody. Mary, who, a few hours before his apprehension, had received ten guineas from him, voluntarily accompanied him to the mayor's house, where he acknowledged himself guilty of the crime alledged against him, but without giving the least intimation that she was an accessary in his guilt. He being committed to prison, Mary sent him all his clothes, and part of the money she had received from him, and the next day took her place in the waggon for London. In a short time her companion was sent to Ireland, where he was tried, and condemned to suffer death; but his sentence was changed to that of transportation.

Soon after her arrival in London, Mary contracted an acquaintance with one of her country-women, named Anne Murphy, by whom she was invited to partake of a lodging in Long-acre. Here she endeavoured to obtain a livelihood by her needle; but not being able to procure sufficient employment, in a little time her situation became truly deplorable.

Murphy intimated to her, that she could introduce her to a mode of life that would prove exceedingly lucrative; adding, that the most profound secrecy was required. The other expressed an anxious desire of learning the means of extricating herself from the difficulties under which she laboured, and made a solemn declaration that she would never divulge what Murphy should communicate. In the evening, Murphy introduced her to a number of men and women, assembled in a kind of club, near St. Giles's. These people gained their living by cutting off women's pockets, and stealing watches, &c. from men in the avenues of the theatres, and at other places of public resort; and, on the recommendation of Murphy, they admitted Mary a member of the society.

After Mary's admission, they dispersed, in order to pursue their illegal occupation; and the booty obtained that night consisted of eighty pounds in cash, and a valuable gold watch. As Mary was not yet acquainted with the art of thieving, she was not admitted to an equal share of the night's produce; but it was agreed that she should have ten guineas. She now regularly applied two hours every day in qualifying herself for an expert thief, by attending to the instructions of experienced practitioners; and, in a short time, she was distinguished as the most ingenious and successful adventurer of the whole gang.

A young fellow of genteel appearance, who was a member of the club, was singled out by Mary as the partner of her bed; and they cohabited for a considerable time as husband and wife.

In a few months our heroine became so expert in her profession, as to acquire great consequence among her associates, who, as we conceive, distinguished her by the name of Jenny Diver, on account of her remarkable dexterity; and by that name we shall call her in the succeeding pages of this narrative.

Jenny, accompanied by one of her female accomplices, joined the crowd at the entrance of a place of worship in the Old Jewry, where a popular divine was to preach, and observing a young gentleman with a diamond ring on his

finger, she held out her hand, which he kindly received in order to assist her; and at this juncture she contrived to get possession of the ring, without the knowledge of the owner; after which she slipped behind her companion, and heard the gentleman say, that as there was no probability of gaining admittance, he would return. Upon his leaving the meeting he missed his ring, and mentioned his loss to the persons who were near him, adding, that he suspected it to be stolen by a woman whom he had endeavoured to assist in the crowd: but, as the thief was unknown, she escaped.

The above robbery was considered as such an extraordinary proof of Jenny's superior address, that her associates determined to allow her an equal share of all their booties, even though she were not present when they were obtained.

In a short time after the above exploit, she procured a pair of false arms and hands to be made; and concealing her real ones under her clothes, she then put something beneath her stays to make herself appear as if in a state of pregnancy, she repaired on a Sunday evening to the place of worship above-mentioned, in a sedan chair, one of the gang going before, to procure a seat among the genteeler part of the congregation, and another attending in the character of a footman.

Jenny being seated between two elderly ladies, each of whom had a gold watch by her side, she conducted herself with great seeming devotion; but when the service was nearly concluded, she seized the opportunity, when the ladies were standing up, of stealing their watches, which she delivered to an accomplice in an adjoining pew. The devotions being ended, the congregation were preparing to depart, when the ladies discovered their loss, and a violent clamour ensued: one of the injured parties exclaimed, that "her watch must have been taken either by the devil or the "pregnant woman;" on which the other said, "she could "vindicate the pregnant lady, whose hands, she was sure, "had not been removed from her lap during the whole time "of her being in the pew."

Flushed with the success of the above adventure, our

heroine determined to pursue her good fortune; and as another sermon was to be preached the same evening, she adjourned to an adjacent public-house, where, without either pain or difficulty, she soon reduced the protuberance of her waist, and having entirely changed her dress, she returned to the meeting, where she had not remained long before she picked a gentleman's pocket of a gold watch, with which she escaped unsuspected.

Her accomplices also were industrious and successful: for, on a division of the booty obtained this evening, they each received thirty guineas. Jenny had now obtained an ascendency over the whole gang, who, conscious of her seperior skill in the arts of thieving, came to a resolution of yielding an exact obedience to her directions.

Jenny again assumed the appearance of a pregnant woman, and, attended by an accomplice, as a footman, went towards St. James's Park, on a day when the king was going to the House of Lords, and there being a great number of persons between the Park and Spring-Gardens, she purposely slipped down, and was instantly surrounded by many of both sexes, who were emulous to afford her assistance; but affecting to be in violent pain, she intimated to them that she was desirous of remaining on the ground till she should be somewhat recovered. As she expected, the crowd increased, and her pretended footman and a female accomplice were so industrious as to obtain two diamond girdle-buckles, a gold watch, a gold snuff box, and two purses, containing together upwards of forty guineas.

The girdle-buckles, watch, and snuff-box, were the following day advertised, and a considerable reward was offered, and a promise given that no questions should be asked the party who should restore the property. Anne Murphy offered to carry the things to the place mentioned in the advertisement, saying the reward offered exceeded what they would produce by sale: but to this Jenny objected, observing, that she might be traced, and the association utterly ruined. She called a meeting of the whole gang, and informed them that she was of opinion that it would be more prudent to sell the things, even at one half

of their real value, than to return them to the owners for the sake of the reward; as if they pursued the latter measure, they should subject themselves to great hazard of being apprehended. Her associates coincided entirely in Jenny's sentiments; and the property was taken to Duke's Place, and there sold to a Jew.

Two of the gang being confined to their lodgings by illness, Jenny and the man with whom she cohabited, generally went in company in search of adventures. They went together to Burr-street, Wapping, and observing a genteel house, the man, who acted as Jenny's footman, knocked at the door, and saying that his mistress was on a sudden taken extremely ill, begged she might be admitted: this was readily complied with, and while the mistress of the house and her maid-servant were gone up stairs for such things as they imagined would afford relief to the supposed sick woman, she opened a drawer, and stole sixty guineas; and after this, while the mistress was holding a smelling-bottle to her nose, she picked her pocket of a purse, which, however, did not contain money to any considerable amount. In the mean time the pretended footman, who had been ordered into the kitchen, stole six silver table spoons, a pepper-box, and a salt-celler. Jenny, pretending to be somewhat recovered, expressed the most grateful acknowledgments to the lady, and, saying she was the wife of a capital merchant in Thames-Street, invited her in the most pressing terms to dinner on an appointed day, and then went away in a hackney-coach, which by her order had been called to the door by her pretended servant.

She practised a variety of felonies of a similar nature in different parts of the metropolis and its environs; but the particulars of the above transaction being inserted in the newspapers, people were so effectually cautioned, that our adventurer was under the necessity of employing her invention upon the discovery of other methods of committing depredations on the public.

The parties whose illness we have mentioned being recovered, it was resolved that the whole gang should go to Bristol, in search of adventures during the fair, which is

held in that city every summer; but being unacquainted with the place, they deemed it good policy to admit into their society a man who had long subsisted there by villainous practices.

Being arrived at the place of destination, Jenny and Anne Murphy assumed the characters of merchants' wives, the new member and another of the gang appeared as country traders, and our heroine's favourite retained his former character of footman. They took lodgings at different inns, and agreed that, if any of them should be apprehended, the others should endeavour to procure their release by appearing to their characters, and representing them people of reputation in London. They had arrived to such a proficiency in their illegal occupation, that they were almost certain of accomplishing every scheme they suggested; and when it was inconvenient to make use of words, they were able to convey their meaning to each other by winks, nods, and other intimations.

Being one day in the fair, they observed a west country clothier giving a sum of money to his servant, and heard him direct the man to deposit it in a bureau. They followed the servant, and one of them fell down before him, expecting that he would also fall, and that, as there was a great crowd, the money might be easily secured. Though the man fell into the channel, they were not able to obtain their expected booty, and therefore they had recourse to the following stratagem: One of the gang asked whether his master had not lately ordered him to carry home a sum of money; to which the other replied in the affirmative. The sharper then told him he must return to his master, who had purchased some goods, and waited to pay for them.

The countryman followed him to Jenny's lodging, and being introduced to her, she desired him to be seated, saying his master was gone on some business in the neighbourhood, but had left orders for him to wait till his return. She urged him to drink a glass of wine, but the poor fellow repeatedly declined her offers with awkward simplicity; the pretended footman having taught him to believe her a

woman of great wealth and consequence. However, her encouraging solicitations conquered his bashfulness, and he drank till he became intoxicated. Being conducted into another apartment he was soon fast locked in the arms of sleep, and while in that situation he was robbed of the money he had received from his master, which proved to be a hundred pounds. They were no sooner in possession of the cash than they discharged the demand of the innkeeper, and set out in the first stage for London.

Soon after their return to town, Jenny and her associates went to London-Bridge in the dusk of the evening, and observing a lady standing at a door to avoid the carriages, a number of which were passing, one of the men went up to her, and under pretence of giving her assistance, seized both her hands, which he held till his accomplices had rifled her pockets of a gold snuff-box, a silver case, containing a set of instruments, and thirty guineas in cash.

On the following day, as Jenny and an accomplice, in the character of a footman, were walking through Change-Alley, she picked a gentleman's pocket of a bank-note for two hundred pounds, for which she received one hundred and thirty pounds from a Jew, with whom the gang had very extensive connexions.

Our heroine now hired a real footman, and her favourite, who had long acted in that character, assumed the appearance of a gentleman. She hired lodgings in the neighbourhood of Covent-Garden, that she might more conveniently attend the Theatres. She proposed to her associates to reserve a tenth part of the general produce for the support of such of the gang as might through illness be rendered incapable of following their iniquitous occupations; and to this they readily assented.

Jenny dressed herself in an elegant manner, and went to the theatre one evening when the king was to be present; and during the performance she attracted the particular attention of a young gentleman of fortune from Yorkshire, who declared, in the most passionate terms, that she had made an absolute conquest of his heart, and earnestly solicited the favour of attending her home. She at first declined

a compliance, saying she was newly married, and that the appearance of a stranger might alarm her husband. At length she yielded to his entreaty, and they went together in a hackney-coach, which set the young gentleman down in the neighbourhood where Jenny lodged, after he had obtained an appointment to visit her in a few days, when she said her husband would be out of town.

Upon Jenny's joining her companions, she informed them that while she remained at the play-house she was only able to steal a gold snuff-box; and they appeared to be much dissatisfied on account of her ill success: but their good humour returned upon learning the circumstances of the adventure with the young gentleman, which they had no doubt would prove exceedingly profitable.

The day of appointment being arrived, two of the gang appeared equipped in elegant liveries, and Anne Murphy acted as waiting-maid. The gentleman came in the evening, having a gold-headed cane in his hand, a sword with a gold hilt by his side, and wearing a gold watch in his pocket, and a diamond ring on his finger.

Being introduced to her bed-chamber, she contrived to steal her lover's ring; and he had not been many minutes undressed before Ann Murphy rapped at the door, which being opened, she said, with an appearance of the utmost consternation, that her master was returned from the country. Jenny affecting to be under a violent agitation of spirits, desired the gentleman to cover himself entirely with the bed clothes, saying, she would convey his apparel into another room, so that, if her husband came there, nothing would appear to awaken his suspicion: adding, that, under pretence of indisposition, she would prevail upon her husband to sleep in another bed, and then return to the arms of her lover.

The clothes being removed, a consultation was held, when it was agreed by the gang that they should immediately pack up all their moveables, and decamp with their booty, which, exclusive of the cane, watch, sword, and ring, amounted to an hundred guineas.

The amorous youth waited in a state of the utmost im-

patience till morning, when he rang the bell, which brought the people of the house to the chamber door, but they could not gain admittance, the fair fugitive having turned the lock, and taken away the key; but the door being forced open, an eclaircissement ensued. The gentleman represented in what manner he had been treated; but the people of the house were deaf to his expostulations, and threatened to circulate the adventure throughout the town, unless he would indemnify them for the loss they had sustained. Rather than hazard the exposure of his character, he agreed to discharge the debt Jenny had contracted; and dispatched a messenger for clothes and money, that he might take leave of a house of which he had sufficient reason to regret having been an inhabitant.

Our heroine's share of the produce of the above adventure amounted to seventy pounds. This infamous association was now become so notorious a pest to society, that they judged it necessary to leave the metropolis, where they were apprehensive they could not long remain concealed from justice. They practised a variety of stratagems with great success in different parts of the country: but, upon revisiting London, Jenny was committed to Newgate, on a charge of having picked a gentleman's pocket; for which she was sentenced to transportation.

She remained in the above prison near four months, during which time she employed a considerable time in the purchase of stolen effects. When she went on board the transport-vessel, she shipped a quantity of goods, nearly sufficient to load a waggon. The property she possessed ensured her great respect, and every possible convenience and accommodation during the voyage; and on her arrival in Virginia she disposed of her goods, and for some time lived in great splendor and elegance.

She soon found that America was a country where she could expect but little emolument from the practices she had so successfully followed in England; and therefore she employed every art that she was mistress of to ingratiate herself into the esteem of a young gentleman who was preparing to embark on board a vessel bound for the port of

London. He became much enamoured of her, and brought her to England: but while the ship lay at Gravesend, she robbed him of all the property she could get into her possession, and, pretending an indisposition, intimated a desire of going on shore, in which her admirer acquiesced; but she was no sooner on land than she made a precipitate retreat.

She now travelled through several parts of the country, and by her usual wicked practices obtained many considerable sums. At length she returned to London, but was not able to find her former accomplices.

She now frequented the Royal Exchange, the Theatres, London Bridge, and other places of public resort, and committed innumerable depredations on the public. Being detected in picking a gentleman's pocket upon London Bridge, she was taken before a magistrate, to whom she declared that her name was Jane Webb, and by that appellation she was committed to Newgate.

On her trial, a gentleman, who had detected her in the very act of picking the prosecutor's pocket, deposed, that a person had applied to him, offering fifty pounds on condition that he should not appear in support of the prosecution: and a lady swore, that on the day she committed the offence for which she stood indicted, she saw her pick the pockets of more than twenty different people. The record of her former conviction was not produced in court; and therefore she was arraigned for privately stealing; and on the clearest evidence the jury pronounced her guilty. The property being valued at less than one shilling, she was sentenced to transportation.

A twelvemonth had not elapsed before she returned from transportation a second time; and on her arrival in London, she renewed her former practices.

A lady going from Sherborne Lane to Walbrooke, was accosted by a man, who took her hand, seemingly as if to assist her in crossing some planks that were placed over the channel for the convenience of passengers; but he squeezed her fingers with so much force as to give her great pain, and in the mean time Jenny picked her pocket of thirteen

shillings and a penny. The gentlewoman, conscious of being robbed, seized the thief by the gown, and she was immediately conducted to the compter. She was examined the next day by the lord-mayor, who committed her to Newgate in order for trial.

At the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey, she was tried on an endictment for privately stealing, and the jury brought in the verdict, "guilty;" in consequence of which she received sentence of death.

After conviction she seemed sincerely to repent of the course of iniquity in which she had so long persisted, punctually attending prayers in the chapel, and employing great part of her time in private devotions. The day preceding that on which she was executed, she sent for the woman who nursed her child, then about three years old, and after informing her that there was a person who would pay for the infant's maintenance, earnestly entreated that it might be carefully instructed in the duties of religion, and guarded from all temptations to wickedness, and then acknowledging that she had long been a daring offender against the laws, both of God and man, entreated the woman to pray for the salvation of her soul, then took her leave, seeming to be deeply impressed with the sentiments of contrition.

On the following morning she appeared to be in a serene state of mind: but being brought into the press-yard, the executioner approached to put the halter about her, when her fortitude abated: but in a short time her spirits were again tolerably composed.

She was conveyed to Tyburn in a mourning-coach, being attended by a clergyman, to whom she declared her firm belief in all the principles of the Protestant religion.

At the place of execution she employed a considerable time in fervent prayer; and then her life was resigned a sacrifice to those laws which she had most daringly violated; and her remains were, by her particular desire, interred in St. Pancras church-yard.

We may, perhaps, fix the most dangerous period of life to be between the years of sixteen and twenty. As we approach towards maturity we grow impatient of controul,

regardless of all advice that does not flatter the prevailing humour, and direct all our attention to a state of independency, which youthful imagination represents as the summit of human felicity, where no inconvenience can obtrude, but such as may, without difficulty, be repelled by the mere efforts of our own resolution.

The advice of a parent sinks into the mind with double weight: but we should allow the due force to such as is offered by those who are unconnected with us in the ties of blood. If the conduct that is recommended to us points to the happiness of life, what folly is it to neglect the sacrifice of idle inclination, the indulgence of which will yield but a slight and temporary gratification, though it may, perhaps, prove the source of severe and long regret.

There are those who censure the laws of these kingdoms as being of too sanguinary a complexion. Be it admitted that there is something extremely dreadful in the idea of depriving a fellow-creature of existence at a time when the weight of his sins is more than sufficient to sink him into everlasting perdition: but, as partial favour must always give way to considerations for the public good, it should be remembered that the lives of individuals are not sacrificed so much for the sake of punishing them for the offences of which they have been guilty, as with a view of making them public examples for the discontinuance of vice. Justice may for a time be eluded, and no inconvenience may have been sustained by the injured party, who, though entertaining no private animosity, but even tenderly compassionating the offender, will be induced, by his regard to the public, to inforce the law, which can never lose the power to operate. How dangerous, then, must be the situation of those who have been guilty of acts of delinquency! The dread of a violent and disgraceful death, and all the horrors of conscious guilt, must continually rush upon their minds, and render them miserable beyond all the powers of expression.

Persons who, having infringed the laws of their country, are committed to prison, too frequently are known to employ their time in a very unprofitable manner. How can this conduct be accounted for but by supposing that they cherish

the expectation of an acquittal? No circumstances in life are so desperate as to exclude the hope of a favourable change of fortune. In support of this assertion it need only be said, that an instance cannot be produced where the most notorious offender has, even at the place of execution, declined the thoughts of a reprieve.

To consider the terrible situation of a condemned prisoner must unquestionably prove distressing in a peculiar degree to a humane mind. The unhappy object stands tottering on the verge of eternity, and the dreadful prospect wholly incapacitates him for making that preparation which is necessary to so important a change; for it is a reasonable supposition, that under such alarming circumstances the mind must be so violently agitated as to be deprived of the power of exerting its usual functions; and there is too much reason to apprehend that, when repentance is thus long delayed, there will be but a feeble support for the hope of its efficacy. Therefore we should employ the short space between this life and eternity in yielding a perfect obedience to the divine will: no opportunity should be neglected of making application to the Almighty power for obtaining forgiveness of those offences of which we have been guilty in daring to insult his sacred laws; for death is clothed in terrors, which the man, possessed of the utmost fortitude of which human nature is capable, cannot behold with calmness, even when his mind is undisturbed by the upbraidings of a guilty conscience.

Disgusted at the prudent conduct of the old lady, in discountenancing her amour with the footman, the unfortunate young woman, whose memoirs are recorded in the preceding narrative, resolved to desert her benevolent patroness, from whom she had experienced all the tenderness of maternal affection: and this act of indiscretion led to those crimes which were followed by an untimely and ignominious death. Hence, then, it appears, that we cannot employ too much solicitude for avoiding a conduct that conscience cannot entirely approve.

GILBERT LANGLEY.

A man of superior talents and education, sentenced to Death; which was remitted for Transportation.

(A CURIOUS AND INTERESTING NARRATIVE.)

Virtue shou'd vice, in every rank,
Both scorn and ridicule,
As principles and manners will
The bravest nation rule.

Mend straight your life, and fear the laws,
Omnipotence revere,
It is not gold that happy makes
Poor grov'ling wretches here.

THOUGH each case which we lay before the reader, from the nature of our publication, necessarily leads to an untimely end, or a severer punishment; yet in the drawing of some, independent of our criminal record, we frequently give useful and interesting information.

The history of Gilbert Langley presents the mode of education of young men in France. When at peace with that polished nation, great advantages accrued to parents wishing to procure their children a good education, and a knowledge of the world. Constant intercourse, when war does not hoist his destructive banners, took place between individuals of each nation. Send me your boys, says the French parent, I will send you my girls, and we will make no charge to each other; and vice versa, quoth the English father, I will educate your girls, while you do the like to my boys. Thus the youth of either nation, became intimate with both, and when once the Englishman's misfortune, prejudice, can be removed, there is in no nation upon earth, during the times of peace, pleasanter people than the French.

The writer of these reflections resided some time among those merry people; and, with truth he avers, that once acquainted with them, and relaxing a little from JOHN BULLISM, an Englishman cannot fail being content among

the inhabitants of France. This opinion, however, was formed previous to the revolution in that country; and consequently before the natives changed the race of the Bourbons, for a far greater tyrant. Yet, even Bonaparte, odious as he was to the rest of Europe, did not materially affect the national hospitality of the French. And here, dwelling as the editor now does, on the pleasant days he passed in Paris; and farther stimulated to give some relief to the reader of his melancholy pages, he would offer a fragment, written by him in that gay city, now lamentably twenty-seven years ago, on a beautiful and virtuous female Parisian, and never before committed to the press. Amid the effusions of youth, uncorrected from the time it was written, it pourtrays the mode of passing Sunday in a Catholic country.

"The sabbath in Paris.—I speak of the gay days of Louis XVI.—was passed at mass in the forenoon, and in attendance to a sermon in the afternoon.

"This was ever done with marks of devotion; and then all ranks sallied out in quest of pleasure.—The noblesse rolled in their carriages along the Boulvards, and the bourgois walked to the banks of the Seine. As the evening approached; some to the comedie Italian, the opera, or other theatres, of which there were above a score, would hasten; while others formed parties for the dance, in the shady walks along the river.

"It was on a fine Sunday afternoon, I strolled into the environs of Paris. My attention was particularly attracted by a group of daneers, in which were three beautiful little demoiselles, "on the light fantastic toe," tripping to music of the gay cotillon. On their cheeks was the tint of health, heightened by exercise to the rose's blush; the sweet smile of happiness played in their eyes, and sported on their smiles. I became, as it were, rivetted to the spot, and felt sorry when the figure ended. Then would I envy the youths their happiness in dancing with such angelic creatures. Here, let not my fair country-women think my description profuse, or my own sex become fastidious, when I declare, that there is a fascination in some female Parisians, which could not attract, but through the smiles of innocence—and, of the

unmarried and youthful, I firmly believe, that, with a demeanour, which we might almost term levity, none are more virtuous. For the married and the matron I will not become an advocate.—It is said, that the sensual appetites of some begin at matrimony, and progress with their years; while the paint on the cheek, which in the wane of beauty, each year, appears to get a new coat, seems to say, 'I still would attract, even though the power is gone.' The pretty girls of France never paint, and with us in England, we only see the homely more disfigured, by this vile custom; for, what is by nature beautiful, suffers from every touch of art.

"Still were my eyes bent upon one of the four—for the mind will indulge a preference—when a youth observing how long I had remained a spectator of the dance, came to me, and with politeness fit for the drawing-room, invited me to make one of the next set, assuring me that either of the young ladies would think herself honoured by my hand. I had learned dancing a la Francais, but had I been untutored in the art, as John Bull himself, I verily believe, I should have accepted the young Frenchman's offer. Fearful of losing her on whom my admiration hung, with joyful step I advanced, and took the hand of the fair, the modest Nanette. Let those who have ever adored female beauty and worth, conceive my delight—methought I danced in Elisium.

"In this pleasing retrospect let me not suffer in the opinion of the over-wise, for dancing on a Sunday. It is the will, and not the deed, which we condemn; nor do I think that any of our Right Reverend Fathers in God would entirely excommunicate me for the commission of this deed. I was in a strange land, where each custom was at variance with our own; and the adage tells us, that in Rome we must become Romans.

"With a smile of approbation, Nanette, her hand now parted from mine by ending of the dance, took the arm I offered, and with delight and pride did I escort the little nymph to the dwelling of her parents. Our companions left us, as the road branched to their different homes, and together we proceeded, unknown to any one, to the upper part of Rue St. Honore. Arrived, I was received by the

father and mother of Nanette, and thanked for my attendance on their daughter; no distrust clouded their brows, no suspicion fell upon me—perdition to the man who would have given any cause—and I was regaled with wine. An English gentleman is welcome to each individual of France. I solicited the hand of Nanette, for the next Sunday, and received an invitation for an earlier day to visit her. I became intimate with this amiable family, and in love with my partner. She taught me French—there is nothing so bewitching as the instruction of an amiable; and I, in return, instructed her in English. Some weeks had passed in this delightful employment, and young and inconsiderate, I longed to make Nanette my own. Fate, however, decreed otherwise, for I was summoned home to take a last leave of a near relation, who soon after my return, died within my arms. Our loves, however, met with no diminution by absence, for Nanette's letters became the greatest joy of my life. I had determined, being now winter, to visit Paris in the spring, which in all probability, would have witnessed our union;—but the revolution—unhappy event, by which such numbers suffered, was a long source of mental misery to me—for, in the general wreck, I lost Nanette!"

Gilbert Langley was born of Roman Catholic parents in London, where his father was an eminent goldsmith, and who sent his son to the seat of his grandfather in Derbyshire, when he was only three years of age.

Having continued in this situation four years, his mother's anxiety induced her to fetch him home; soon after which he was entered in the school of the Charter-house, where he soon became a tolerably good classical scholar.

The father now wished to send his son abroad for farther education, and that he might not fail of being brought up a strict Catholic; but this was warmly opposed by the mother, through tenderness to her child: but her death soon left the father to act as he pleased.

The Prior of the Benedictine convent at Douay being in London, Langley's father agreed for his board and education, and committed him to the care of his new master, with whom he proceeded to Dover, sailed for Calais, and travelled

thence to St. Omer's, and on the following day reached Douay, where young Langley was examined by the prior and fellows of the college, and admitted of the school.

At the end of three years he became a tolerable master of the French language, exclusive of his other literary acquirements; so that, at the Christmas following, he was chosen king of the class, which is a distinction bestowed on one of the best scholars, whose business it is to regulate the public entertainments of the school.

It is the custom at Douay for officers to attend at the gates of the town, to detect any persons bringing in contraband liquors, because the merchants of the place pay a large duty on them, which duty is annually farmed by the highest bidder.

During the Christmas holidays, Langley and three of his school-fellows quitted the town, to purchase a small quantity of brandy of an under price; but being observed by a soldier, who saw their bottles filled, he informed the officers of the affair; the consequence of which was, that the young gentlemen were stopped, and the liquor found, hid under their cassocks. They offered money for their release; but it was refused, and they were conducted to the house of the Farmer-general.

At the instant of their arrival, two Franciscan Friars seeing them, said it was illegal to take students before the civil magistrates, because the superior of their own college was accountable for their conduct.

Hereupon they were taken home to the Prior; and the Farmer-general making his demand of the customary fine, the Prior thought it extravagant, and refused to pay it: but at length the matter was settled by arbitration.

In the Catholic colleges, the students live in a very meagre manner during the season of Lent, having little to subsist on but bread and sour wine; a circumstance that frequently tempts them to supply their wants by acts of irregularity *

* If English students, out of their own money could procure animal food, they might dress it; the servants of the college pretending not to see the impiety.

As this season Langley, and five of his companions, oppressed by the calls of hunger, determined to make an attack on the kitchen; but at the instant they had forced open the door, they were overheard by the servants, the consequence of which was that many furious blows were exchanged by the contending parties.

On the following day the delinquents were summoned to attend the Prior, who was so incensed at this outrage against the good order of the society, that he declared they should be expelled as soon as a consistory of the Monks could be held.

But when the consistory assembled, they resolved to pardon all the offenders on acknowledging their faults, and promising not to renew them, except one, named Brown, who had twice knocked down the shoemaker of the college, because he had called out to alarm the Prior.

The young gentlemen, chagrined at losing their associate, determined to be revenged on some one at least of the servants who had given evidence against them; and after revolving many schemes, they determined that the man who lighted the fires should be the object of their vengeance, because he had struck several of them during the rencounter.

This being resolved on, they disguised themselves, and went to a wood-house adjacent to the college, and being previously provided with rods, they waited till the man came with his wheel-barrow to fetch wood, when one of them going behind him, threw a cloak over his head, which being immediately tied round his neck, the rest stripped him, and flogged him in the most severe manner, while he in vain called for assistance, but was unheard; as our heroes had taken previous care to shut the door of the wood-house.

The flagellation was just ended when the bell rung for the students to attend their evening exercise; on which they left the unhappy victim of their revenge, and repaired to the public hall.

In the mean time the poor sufferer ran into the Cloysters, exclaiming, "Le Diable! Le Diable!" as if he had really thought the devil had tormented him: and hence he ran to the kitchen, where he recounted the adventure to his fellow-

servants, who dressed his wounds, carried him to bed, and gave him something to nourish him.

A suspicion arising that the students had been the authors of this calamity to the poor fellow, the servants communicated the circumstances of it to the Prior, who promised his endeavours to find out and punish the delinquents; and with this view went into the hall, with a look at once penetrating and indignant: but the young gentlemen having bound themselves to secrecy by an oath, no discovery could be made.

Young Langley having distinguished himself by his attention to literature for the space of two years, the Monks began to consider him as one who would make a valuable acquisition to their society, for which reason they treated him with singular respect; and at length prevailed upon him to agree to enter into their fraternity, if his father's consent could be obtained.

As Langley was in no want of money, he frequently went into the town, to habituate himself into the manners of the people, and to observe their customs. Thursday being a holiday, he and one of his school-fellows named Meynel, asked the Prior permission to walk on the ramparts, which being denied, they went out without leave, and repairing to a tavern, drank wine till they were intoxicated.

In this condition they went to the ramparts, where having been for some time the laughing-stock of the company, they went home to bed. Being missed at evening prayers, some of the other students apologized for their absence, by saying they were ill; and the excuse was very readily admitted: but in a few days afterwards a gentleman called on the Prior, and told him what a ridiculous figure his students had made on the ramparts.

Incensed at this violation of their duty, the Prior sent for them to his chamber, and gave orders that they should be flogged with great severity. This indignity had such an effect on the mind of Langley, that he grew reserved and morose, and would have declined all his studies, but that one of the Monks, called Father Howard, restored him to

his good humour by his indulgent treatment, and persuaded him to pay his usual attention to literature.

Father Howard's considerate conduct had such an effect on Langley, that he spent the greater part of his time with that gentleman, who instructed him in the principles of logic, and was about to initiate him in those of philosophy, when his father wrote a letter, requiring him to return to his native country.

The society being unwilling to lose one who they thought would become a valuable member, the Prior wrote to England, requesting that the youth might be permitted to complete his education: but the father insisted on his return.

Hereupon the young gentleman left the College, and proceeded by the way of St. Omer's, reached Calais in two days. As the wind was contrary, it was some days longer before the company embarked for England, when, instead of putting into Dover, the vessel came round to the Thames, and the passengers were landed at Gravesend.

Langley having spent all his money at Calais, now affected an air of unconcern, saying that he had no English money in his possession, from his having been so long abroad; on which one of the company lent him money, and on the following day he arrived at his father's house in London.

When he had reposed himself some days after his journey, the father desired him to make choice of some profession; on which he mentioned his inclination to study physic or law; but the old gentleman, who had no good opinion of either of these professions, persuaded him to follow his own trade of a goldsmith.

For the present, however, he was placed at an academy, in Chancery-lane, that he might be instructed in those branches of knowledge requisite for a tradesman: but becoming acquainted with some young gentlemen of the law, he found that his father's allowance of pocket-money was insufficient for use; and being unwilling that his new acquaintance should think that he was deficient in cash, he purloined small sums from a drawer in his father's shop, and when he did not find any money there, stole some pieces of broken gold, which he disposed of to the Jews.

Mr. Langley the elder, having sent his son with some plate to the house of a gentleman in Grosvenor-square, the youth saw a very beautiful woman go into a shop opposite a public-house; on which he went into the latter, and inquiring after her, found she had gone to her own lodgings. Ascertained in this, he delivered his plate, and formed a resolution of visiting the lady on the Sunday following.

When the Sunday came, the old gentleman went out, and, as the son imagined, to smoke his pipe at an adjacent public-house; and in the mean time the son stole seven guineas from three different bags, that his father might not discover the robbery, and immediately repaired to the lodgings of the lady whom he had seen.

From her lodgings they went to a Tavern, where they continued till the following day, having no idea of a detection: but it happened that Mr. Langley, senior, instead of going to the public-house as usual, watched the son to the tavern above mentioned.

On the following day the father interrogated the youth respecting his preceding conduct; and particularly asked where he had been the day before. The young fellow said he had been at church, where he met with some acquaintance, who prevailed on him to go to the tavern.

The father, knowing the falsehood of his tale, corrected his son in a severe manner, and forbad him to dine at his table till his conduct should be reformed. Thus obliged to associate with the servants, young Langley became soon too intimate with the kitchen-maid, and robbed his father to buy such things as he thought would be acceptable to her.

Among other things he purchased a pair of shoes laced with gold, which he was presenting to her in the parlour, at the very moment that his father knocked at the door. The girl instantly quitted the room; but the old gentleman interrogating the son respecting the shoes, the latter averred that a lady, who said she had bought them, in the neighbourhood, desired leave to deposit them at their house till the following day.

After this the father permitted the son to dine with him as usual; but it was not long before he catched him in a too

intimate connexion with the maid-servant in the kitchen; on which the girl was dismissed from her service, and Mr. Langley threatened to disinherit his son, unless he would reform his conduct.

A middle-aged woman of grave appearance was now hired as a servant; but the evil complained of was far from being cured, as an intimacy between her and the young gentleman was soon discovered by the father.

It was not long after the servant-girl above mentioned had been discharged before she swore herbal pregnant by the son: on which he was taken into custody by a warrant; the consequence was that the father paid fifteen pounds to compromise the affair; after which he received the son to his favour, and forgave all the errors of his former conduct.

The death of the old gentleman put his son in possession of a considerable fortune, exclusive of a settled good estate; and for the first year he applied himself so closely to business that he made a neat profit of seven hundred pounds: but he did not long continue this course of industry; for having formerly made connections with women of the town, particularly in the purlieus of Drury-Lane, he now renewed his visits to those wretched victims to, and purnishers of, the vices of men.

A man of genteel appearance, named Gray, having ordered plate of Langley to the amount of a hundred pounds, invited him to a tavern to drink. In the course of the conversation, the stranger said he had dealt with his late father, and would introduce him to a lady who had thirty thousand pounds to her fortune. This was only a scheme to defraud Langley, who delivered the plate, and took a draught for the money on a vintner in Bartholomew-Close; but when he went to demand the payment the vintner was removed.

On the following day the vintner's wife went to Langley, and informed him that Gray had defrauded her husband of four hundred and fifty pounds; and Langley being of a humane disposition, interested himself so far in behalf of the unfortunate man, that a letter of licence for three years was granted him by his creditors.

Langley now took out an action against Gray, but was not able to find him; when one day he was accosted by a man in Fleet-Street, who asked him to step into a public-house, and he would tell him where he should meet with the defrauder. Langley complying with the proposal, the stranger said he would produce Gray within an hour, if the other would give him a guinea; which being done, the stranger went out, but returned no more.

Exasperated by this circumstance, which seems to have been a contrivance of one of Gray's accomplices, Mr. Langley employed an attorney, who soon found the delinquent, against whom an action was taken out, in consequence of which he was confined several years in the Marshalsea.

Langley now became a sportsman on the turf at Newmarket, under the instructions of a vintner in Holborn, whose niece entered into his service; but who soon fell a victim to his unbounded passion for the sex.

Langley becoming acquainted with some young fellows in the Temple, three of them, and four women of the town, went with him to Greenwich, where they gave the ladies the slip, and took a boat to London; but the women pursuing them, overtook them in the river, and attempting to board their boat, afforded great diversion to the spectators: but our adventurers' watermen rowing hard, they reached the Temple, and concealed themselves in one of the chambers, a few minutes before the ladies landed.

Soon after this Langley made another excursion to Greenwich to visit a lady and gentleman, who having a remarkably handsome servant-maid, our adventurer found means to seduce her; the consequence of which was that she became pregnant, and made repeated applications to him for support: whereupon he gave her a considerable sum of money, and heard no more of her from that period.

Thus living in a continual round of dissipation, his friends recommended matrimony, as the most likely step to reclaim him; in consequence of which he married a young lady named Brown, with a handsome fortune.

He had not been long married before he determined to borrow all the cash and jewels he could, and decamp with

the property. As he had the reputation of being in ample circumstances, he found no difficulty in getting credit for many articles of value, with which he and his wife embarked for Holland: and in the mean time his creditors took out a commission of bankruptcy against him.

When Langley came to Rotterdam, he applied to the States General for protection, in apprehension of being pursued by his creditors; but the States not being then sitting, the creditors made application to Lord Chesterfield, then embassador at the Hague, which frustrated his intention.

In the interim his creditors found out his lodgings in a village near Rotterdam; but he eluded their search, leaving his wife, with four hundred pounds, in the care of a friend, but did not tell her the place of his retreat, to prevent any possibility of a discovery.

After skulking from place to place, he went back to Rotterdam, and surrendered to his creditors; but found that his wife was gone with an English captain to Antwerp. On his arrival in England he was examined before the commissioners, and treated with the customary lenity shewn to unfortunate tradesmen in such circumstances.

After his affairs were adjusted he sailed to Barbadoes, where he soon contracted so many debts that he was glad to take his passage to Port Royal in Jamaica: and soon after his arrival there he went to visit a planter at some distance, who would have engaged him as his clerk.

Langley told the planter that he owed twenty dollars at Port Royal, for which he had left his chest as a security. The gentleman instantly giving him the money to redeem it, he went to Port-Royal, assumed the name of Englefield, embarked on board a man of war as midshipman, and came to England, where the ship was paid off at the expiration of six months.

Taking lodgings at Plymouth, he paid his addresses to a young lady, whom he might have married, with the consent of her father; but being then in an ill state of health, he pretended to have received a summons from his friends in London, to repair immediately to that city on an important

affair; but that, as soon as it was adjusted, he would return, and conclude the marriage.

On his arrival in town, he sent for a man who had formerly lived with his father, from whom he learnt that his creditors had not made any dividend under the bankruptcy, and were engaged in a law-suit respecting a part of the property. This faithful old servant of his father told him that his wife had retired to the North of England: and, giving him money, recommended it to him to lodge privately in Southwark.

This advice he followed; and kept himself retired for some time: but passing through Cheapside, he was arrested and conducted to the Poultry Compter, where he continued many months, during which he was supported by the benevolence of the old servant above mentioned. While in the Compter, he made some very bad connexions; and being concerned with some of the prisoners in an attempt to escape, he was removed to Newgate, as a place of greater security.

While in this prison, he fell ill of a disorder, which threatened his life; whereupon his friends discharged the debt for which he had been arrested, and removed him to lodgings, where he soon recovered his health.

Soon afterwards he got recommended to a captain in the Levant trade, with whom he was to have sailed; but an unhappy attachment to a woman of ill fame prevented his being ready to make the voyage.

Langley's friends were chagrined at this fresh instance of his imprudence; and soon afterwards he was arrested, and carried to a spunging-house, where he attempted to dispatch himself by a halter: but the rope breaking, he escaped with life. The bailiff and his wife happening to be now absent, and only two maid-servants in the house, Langley made them both drunk, and effecting his escape, crossed the water into the Borough, where he worked some time with a colour-grinder.

Disgusted with a life attended with so much labour, he contracted with a captain of a Jamaica ship, who took him to that island, on the condition of selling him as a slave;

and, on his arrival, sold him to Colonel Hill, who employed him to educate his children: but Langley soon running from his employer, went on board a ship bound for England; but being impressed on his arrival in the Downs, was put on board a man of war, and carried round to Plymouth.

Langley and another man now deserting from the ship, strolled to London, and took up their residence in a two-penny lodging: but as Langley now found no friends to support him, he contracted with one of those persons called crimps, who used to agree with unhappy people to go as slaves to the colonies. His contract was to sail to Pennsylvania; but while the ship lay in the Thames, he and a weaver from Spitalfields made their escape, and travelling to Canterbury, passed themselves as Protestant refugees.

Going hence to Dover, they embarked for Calais; and after some weeks' residence in that place, Langley sailed to Lisbon, where he remained only a short time before he contracted debts, which obliged him to seek another residence; wherefore he went to Malaga in Spain.

His poverty was now extreme; and, while he sat melancholy one day by the sea-side, some priests asked him from what country he came. He answered in Latin, "From England."

Hereupon they conducted him to a convent, relieved his distresses, and then began to instruct him in the principles of the Roman Catholic religion. Langley disguised his sentiments; and after being apparently made a convert, was recommended as a page to a Spanish lady of distinction.

In this situation he continued several months; but having an affair of gallantry with the niece to the old lady, he was compelled to make a precipitate retreat from a window, and shelter himself in the house of an Irish taylor, who procured a passage for him to Gibraltar, in the first ship that sailed.

On his arrival at Gibraltar, he would have entered into the army; but being refused, because he was not tall enough, his distress compelled him to work as a labourer, in repairing the barracks; but he soon quitted this business, and officiated as a waiter in the Tennis-Court belonging to the

garrison; but it being intimated to the governor that he was a spy, he was lodged in a dungeon, where he remained more than a fortnight.

On obtaining his discharge, he embarked on board a Spanish vessel bound to Barbary with corn; and, on his return to Spain, applied to the Monks of a convent, who charitably relieved him, and the Prior agreed to take him a voyage to Santa Cruz; but having no great prospect of pecuniary advantage in this way of life, he went to Oratava, where some English merchants contributed to his support; but he soon sailed to Genoa, as he could get no settled employ at Oratava.

From Genoa the vessel sailed to Cadiz; and Langley being now appointed steward to the captain, in the course of his reading some letters, found one directed to Messrs. Ryan and Mannock; and having been a school-fellow with Mr. Mannock, he requested the captain's permission to go on shore, and was received in the most friendly manner by Mr. Mannock, who offered to serve him in any way within his power; when Langley said that what he wished was a discharge from his present situation.

Hereupon Mannock wrote to the captain desiring him to pay the steward, and discharge him; but this being refused, Langley took a lodging, to which he was recommended by his friend, who desired he would dine daily at his table, till he procured a passage for England. He likewise gave him money and clothes, so as to enable him to appear in the character of a gentleman.

Langley behaved with great regularity for some time; but the season of carnival advancing, he got into company with a woman of ill fame, with whom he spent the evening; and, on his return, was robbed of his hat, wig, and a book, which he had borrowed of his friend.

On the following day, Mr. Mannock saw the book laying at a shop for sale; which chagrined him so much, that he asked Langley for it, who thereupon acknowledged the whole affair; and Mr. Mannock supposing the woman was privy to the robbery, he took out a warrant against her; by which he recovered his book, which he greatly esteemed.

This matter being adjusted, Langley, by the help of his

friend, procured a passage for England; but just when he was going to embark, he met with a woman, who detained him till the ship had sailed; on which he took a boat, and passed over to St. Lucar, where he went on board an English vessel, which brought him to his native country.

On his arrival in London, he found that his creditors, under the bankruptcy, had received ten shillings in the pound, which gave him reason to hope that he should have a sum of money returned to him, with which he proposed to engage in a small way of business; and in that view applied to his wife's mother for her assistance, and also to inform him where he might find his wife; but she positively refused to comply with either request.

Langley now gave himself up to despair, associated with the worst of company, and though he had some money left him at this juncture, he dissipated the whole in the most extravagant manner.

He now made an acquaintance with one Hill, a young fellow who was in similar circumstances; and having agreed to go to Paris together, they walked as far as Dover; but, on their arrival, finding that an embargo had been laid on all vessels in the port, they determined to return to London.

Being now destitute of cash, they demanded a man's money on the highway; but on his saying he had not any, they searched him, and took from him three farthings, which they threw away almost as soon as they had got it; but for this offence they were apprehended on the same day, and being tried at the next assizes for Kent, were capitally convicted; but the sentence was changed to transportation for seven years, through the lenity of the judge.

Langley was transported in the month of December, 1740.

HENRY COOK,

MURDERER AND HORSE-STEALER;

Executed at Tyburn, December 16, 1741, for Highway Robbery.

SELDOM has villainy had so long a race as we find in this man's history. He committed more robberies, singly, than

Wild, Turpin, or Hawke, and was long the terror of travellers on different roads, but particularly in Essex; and this is consequently a long narrative of curious and daring exploits, with hair-breadth escapes before he could be taken.

Cook was the son of creditable parents in Hounsditch, who having received a decent education, was apprenticed to a leather-cutter, with whom he served his time, and then his father took the shop of a shoe-maker at Stratford in Essex, in which he placed his son.

Having some knowledge of the shoe-making business, he was soon well established, and married a young woman at Stratford, by whom he had three children, before he commenced highwayman.

However it was not long after his marriage before the associating with bad company, and the neglect of his business, involved him so far in debt, that he was obliged to quit his house in apprehension of the bailiffs.

He was afterwards obliged wholly to decline business; and having taken up goods in the name of his father, he was ashamed to make application to him for relief in his distress.

Among the idle acquaintance that Cook had made at Stratford, was an Apothecary named Young, who was concerned with him in robbing gardens and fish-ponds, and in stealing poultry. The persons robbed, offered a reward for apprehending the offenders; and Cook having been known to sell fowls at Leadenhall-market, a warrant was granted to take him into custody; but having notice of it, he concealed himself two months at the house of a relation at Grays, in Essex.

During this retreat it was determined not to execute the warrant; but Cook learning that a bailiff at Stratford had vowed to arrest him if he could be found, he sent the officer a letter advising him to consult his own safety, for he would blow his brains out if he should meet him.

This threat effectually intimidated the bailiff: and Cook having dissipated all his cash, went to Stratford, where he found a man so intimate with his wife, that he became enraged in the highest degree, and taking several articles of furniture with him, he went to London, and sold them.

This being done, he went to the house of a relation in Shoreditch, where he was treated with civility while his money lasted; but when that was nearly gone there was no farther appearance of friendship: and being now driven to extremity, he went to Moorfields, where he purchased a pair of pistols, and having procured powder and ball, went towards Newington, in his way to which he robbed a man of fifteen shillings, and returned to London.

Thus embarked in the high road to destruction, he determined to continue his dangerous trade; and on the following day went to Finchley-common, where he stopped a gentleman, the bridle of whose horse he seized, and ordered him to dismount on pain of death. The rider complying, was robbed both of his money and horse: but he offered the highwayman three guineas if he would send the horse to an inn at St. Albans, which he promised to do; but afterwards finding that he had a valuable acquisition in the beast, he failed to restore him.

This robbery being committed, he crossed the country to Enfield-chace, and going to a public-house where he was known, said that he wished to hide himself, lest he should be arrested.

Having continued here two days, he proceeded to Tottenham, where he robbed a gentleman of about six pounds, and leaving his horse at an inn in Bishopsgate-street, he went to his kinsman's in Shoreditch, where he was interrogated respecting his possessing so much money: but he would give no satisfactory answer.

On the following day he went on the St. Alban's road, and having robbed the passengers of a stage-coach of eight pounds, he went to Enfield-chase, to the house he had frequented before; but while he was there, he read an advertisement in which his horse was so exactly described, that he determined to abscond: on which he went to Hadley Common, near Barnet, where he robbed a gentleman, and taking his horse, gave the gentleman his own.

Soon after this he went to an inn at Mims, where he saw a gentleman whom he had formerly robbed, and was so terrified by the sight of the injured party, that he ran to the

stable, took his horse, and galloped off with the utmost expedition.

On the road between Mims and Barnet, he was met by eight men on horseback, one of whom challenged the horse he rode, saying that a highwayman had stolen it from a gentleman of his acquaintance.

Our adventurer replied, that he had bought the horse at the Bell, in Edmonton, of which he could give convincing proofs; on which the whole company determined to attend him to that place; but when he came near Edmonton, he galloped up a lane, where he was followed by all the other parties; and finding himself in danger of being apprehended, he faced his pursuers, and presenting a pistol, swore he would fire, unless they retreated. Some countrymen coming up at this juncture, he must have been made prisoner, but night advancing, he quitted his horse, and took shelter in a wood.

When he thought he might safely leave his lurking-place, he hastened to London, and going to the house of his relation in Shoreditch, he was challenged with having committed robberies on the highway: but nothing could be learnt from the answers he gave.

Having dissipated his present money, he went again upon Finchley Common. His late narrow escape, however, made such an impression on his mind, that he suffered several persons to pass unattacked, but at length robbed an old man of his horse and five pounds, though not till after it was dark.

Soon afterwards he met a gentleman, whom he obliged to change horses with him: but in a few minutes the gentleman was stopped by the owner of the stolen horse, who said a highwayman had just robbed him of it. Enraged at this, the gentleman swore the place was infested with thieves: however, he delivered the horse, and walked to London.

Cook, riding to his old place of resort, near the Chace, remained there three days; but seeing the horse he had last stolen advertised, he rode off in fear of discovery; and had not proceeded far, before he was seized by the owner of

the horse, assisted by three other persons, who conducted him to Newgate.

At the next Old Bailey sessions he was indicted for stealing this horse; but acquitted, because the owner would not swear to his person.

Soon after his discharge, he returned to his former practices, but his affairs with his creditors having been by this time adjusted by his friends, he lived at Stratford with his wife, and committed his depredations chiefly on Epping Forest.

Having acquired a booty of thirty pounds, he shewed it to a journeyman he kept, named Taylor, and asked him how he might employ it to the best advantage, in buying leather; but Taylor, guessing how it had been obtained, offered to go partners with his master in committing robberies on the highway; and the base contract was instantly made.

They now stopped a great number of coaches on the borders of the Forest; but acted with such an uncommon degree of caution, that they were for a long time unsuspected. The neighbours being at length terrified by such repeated outrages on the public peace, a Captain Mawley took a place in the basket of the Colchester coach, to make discoveries; and Cook and Taylor coming up to demand the money of the passengers, Taylor was shot through the head; on which Cook ran to the captain, and robbed him of his money, on threats of instant death.

The carriage driving on, Cook began to search his deceased companion for his money; but some of the neighbours coming up, he retired behind a hedge to listen to their conversation; and having found that some of them knew the deceased, and intimated that he had been accompanied by Cook, he crossed the fields to London.

Having spent three days in riot and dissipation, he went to his relation in Shoreditch, whom he requested to go to Stratford to inquire the situation of affairs there. When his relation returned, he told him there were several warrants issued against him, and advised him to go to sea.

This he promised to do, but instead thereof, he bought a horse, and rode to Brentwood, in Essex, where he heard little

conversation but of Cook, the famous highwayman of Stratford; and on the next day, he followed a coach from the inn where he had put up, and took about thirty pounds from the passengers.

Cook now connected himself with a gang of desperate highwaymen in London, in conjunction with whom he stopped a coach near Bow, in which were some young gentleman from a boarding-school. A Mr. Cruikshanks riding up at this instant, one of the gang demanded his money; but as he hesitated to deliver it, another of them knocked him down, and killed him on the spot; after which the robbers went to a public-house near Hackney-marsh, and divided the spoils of the evening.

Cook continued but a short time with this gang; but going to a house at Newington-Green, sent for a woman with whom he had cohabited; who threatened to have him apprehended, unless he would give her some money: and though he had but little in his possession, he gave her a guinea, and promised her a farther sum, lest she should carry her threats into execution.

Oppressed in mind by contemplations on his crimes, and particularly by reflecting on the murder of Mr. Cruikshanks, he went to St. Albans, where he assumed a new name, and worked as a journey man shoe-maker for about three weeks; when a highwayman being pursued through the town, the terrors of his conscience on the occasion were such, that he hastily left the shop, and ran across the country, towards Woburn in Bedfordshire.

In his way to Woburn he robbed a farmer of fifty pounds and his horse, and bad him sue the county. The farmer soon raised the hue and cry; but Cook escaped for the present, and riding as far as Birmingham, took lodgings at a public-house, and disposed of his horse.

Cook had now taken on him the name of Stevens; and the landlord of the house where he lodged telling him that there was a shop to let, he took it, and entered into business as a shoe-maker. He now hired one Mrs. Barrett, as his house-keeper: but she soon became his more intimate companion; and accompanying him to horse-races, and other

places of public diversion, his little money was soon dissipated.

Thus situated, he told his house-keeper that he had an aunt in Hertfordshire, who allowed him a hundred per annum, which he received in quarterly payments; and that he would go to her for his money. Under this pretence he left her, and went to Northampton, and from thence to Dunstable, near which place he robbed a farmer of his horse, and sixteen pounds, and then rode to Daventry.

At this last place he met with a Manchester dealer, going home from London; and having spent the evening together, they travelled in company next day, and dined at Coventry. Cook, having an intention of robbing his fellow-traveller, intimated that it would be proper to conceal their money, as they had a dangerous road to travel; and putting his own money into his boot, the other put a purse of gold into his side-pocket,

Prosecuting their journey till they came to a cross-road, Cook demanded his companion's money, on pain of immediate death: and having robbed him of thirty-five guineas, he travelled immediately to Birmingham; and Mrs. Barrett imagined he had been supplied by his aunt, agreeable to the story he had told her.

He now carried on trade as usual; but as often as he was distressed for cash, he used to have recourse to the road, and recruited his pockets by robbing the stages.

At length a London trader coming to Birmingham asked Cook how long he had lived there: which terrified him so that he quitted the place, and travelled towards London, and near Highgate robbed a gentleman, named Zachary, of his horse and money.

On his stolen horse he rode to Epping Forest on the following day; and having robbed a gentleman, returned to London by the way of Stratford, at which place he spoke to a number of his old acquaintance; but was not imprudent enough to quit his horse.

Going to a house he had frequented at Newington-Green, he sent for his relation who lived near Shoreditch, who advised him to make his escape, or he would certainly be

taken into custody. On this he went to Mims: and and his relation visiting him, Cook begged he would sell five watches for him: but the other declined it, recommending him to dispose of them himself in London.

On the following evening, when it was almost dark, he rode towards town, and observing a chaise behind him, permitted it to pass, and followed it to the descent of the hill towards Holloway. There were two gentlemen in the chaise, whose money Cook demanded: but, instead of complying, they drove on the faster; on which he fired, and wounded one of them in the arm: but the report of the pistol bringing some people towards the spot, he galloped off, and went to Mims, his old place of retreat.

Coming to London next day, to sell his watches, he was seen in Cheapside by a woman who knew him, and followed him to Norton Falgate; where, observing him to go into a public-house, she went and procured a constable, who took him into custody, and found on him five watches, and about nine pounds in money.

On his examination before a magistrate, Mr. Zachary, whom he had robbed near Highgate, swearing to the identity of his person, he was committed to Newgate; but not before he had offered to become evidence against some accomplices he pretended to have had; but this offer was rejected.

He now formed a scheme to murder the keepers, and to make his escape: but being detected, he was confined to the cells; and being brought to his trial at the Old Bailey, was capitally convicted.

After sentence of death, he for some time affected a gaiety of behaviour: but when the warrant for his execution arrived, he was so struck with the idea of his approaching fate, that it occasioned convulsive fits, and he never afterwards recovered his health.

This offender was hanged along with John Hudson, for horse-stealing; Patrick Bourne, for a burglary; and Mary Harris, for stripping and robbing a child of about ten years of age.

CAPTAIN HENRY SMYTHEE,

Executed at Dorchester, April 18, 1741, for the murder of the Female whom he had seduced.

NO sooner had we resumed the pen, after putting the finishing stroke to the interesting account of Gilbert Langley, p. 488; and while yet the innocent Nanette was tripping o'er our fancy; the case of a detested murderer of the female he had loved, obtruded upon our notice. When the object of his lust, and the victim of his barbarity, fell into his snare, she was innocent, virtuous, and beautiful, as Nanette. With the poet would we exclaim,

> "Accurs'd that man who rifles innocence and beauty,
> "And then, like a detested weed, throws it away."

Yet, after the commission of such crimes, men have breathed the air of heaven, while they deserved damnation; until the terribly-offended laws of man have inflicted punishment on the wretches. Every circumstance that could aggravate, will be found in this shocking case. The murderer was a husband to another woman, and a father of children born in wedlock.

Henry Smythee was brought up to a sea-faring life, and succeeded his father in the command of a large merchantship, in a foreign trade.

After he had made several voyages, a storm obliged him to put into the harbour of Poole, in Dorsetshire, where he saw a young lady the daughter of a merchant, to whom he paid his addresses, and was in a short time married. His wife's father dying soon after their marriage, Mr. Smythee declined going any longer to sea, engaged in the mercantile business, and employed his leisure hours in rural diversions.

One day, when out with his gun, he wandered so far from home that he lost his way, and being very hungry he strolled to a cottage kept by a poor widower, named Ralph

Mew, who had an only daughter, equally distinguished by the elegance of her form, and the simplicity of her manners.

Mr. Smythee requested the favour of some food; but the countryman suspecting that he meant to take some undue advantage of him, told him he might be supplied at a public-house a mile distant. Smythee, to convince the countryman that he was no impostor, shewed him a diamond ring, a purse of gold, and his watch; on which he was asked to sit down; and Jane Mew, the daughter, fried some bacon and eggs for him, while her father drew some of his best ale.

After the repast, he recounted some of his adventures in foreign parts; but in the mean time regarded the daughter with an eye of desire, and being struck with her superior charms, resolved to get possession of her, if possible.

On his quitting the house, the old man told him that, if he came that way another time, he should be welcome to any thing in his cottage, except his daughter. On the following day he went to the cottage, and gave the old man a tortoise-shell snuff-box, as a compliment for his hospitable behaviour the day before.

The old cottager going out, Mr. Smythee paid his warmest addresses to the daughter, to whom he presented some jewels: but she no sooner judged of his design, than she said, "Is it thus, sir, you make returns for my father's "hospitality, and my civility? And can you be such a "wretch, as to think that my poverty will make me guilty "of a dishonourable action?"

Saying this, she rejected his presents with contempt; while he, struck with the force of what she had urged, remained some time speechless, and then attributed his conduct to the violence of his passion, and offered to make her all the satisfaction in his power, by marriage.

The girl acquainting her father with what had passed, Mr. Smythee was permitted to pay his addresses in an honourable way: but such were his artifice and villainy, that his solemn vows of marriage soon prevailed over the too credulous girl; and her ruin was the consequence.

When the father found that his daughter was pregnant, he died with grief, leaving the unhappy girl a prey to the pungent sorrows of her own mind. Distressed as she was, she wrote to her seducer; but as he took no notice of her letter, she went to Poole, and being directed to his house, the door was opened by Mrs. Smythee, who demanded her business, and said she was the wife of the person for whom she inquired. The poor girl was so shocked to find that Mr. Smythee had a wife, that it was with difficulty she was kept from fainting.

When somewhat recovered, she said that she was with child by Mr. Smythee, who had seduced her under promise of marriage. Hereupon the wife censured her conduct with unreasonable severity, and threatened that she should be lodged in prison, if she did not immediately quit the town.

Leaving the house, the unhappy creature fainted in the street, and was soon surrounded by a number of females, who insulted her with every term of reproach.

When she recovered her senses, she went to a public-house, where she intended to have lodged; but the landlady threatening to send for the beadle, she was obliged to quit the house.

In the interim Mr. Smythee came to his own house, and was compelled to listen to the reproaches of his wife on the infidelity of his conduct.

After attending to this disagreeable lecture, he went out, and desired a person to call on the young woman, and appoint her to meet him at a place without the town.

The unfortunate girl met him accordingly. What passed between them it is impossible to know; but on the following day she was found with her throat cut, and a bloody knife laying by her. Smythee absconding, it was generally supposed that he had been the murderer; and on his return to Poole, about a month afterwards, he was taken into custody, and lodged in the county gaol.

In his defence at his trial, he urged that the reason of his absence from his family was a quarrel with his wife, in consequence of the unhappy discovery that had been made by the deceased: but as he could bring no proof of his being

absent from the spot when the murder was committed, no doubt remained of his guilt, he was capitally convicted, and sentenced to die.

After conviction, he was visited by several clergymen, who exerted themselves to impress him with a due sense of his awful situation. As his death advanced, he became still more resigned, acknowledged the many errors of his life, and confessed himself worthy to undergo the rigour of the law.

He walked to the place of execution, amidst an immense surrounding multitude: and having ascended the cart, addressed the populace, advising them to refrain from yielding to the first impulses of temptation, as they could wish to be preserved from the violation of the divine laws. After the usual devotions, he drew his cap over his face, and saying, "To thee, O Lord, I resign my soul," he was launched into eternity.

JOHN VICARS.

Executed at Ely, November 7, 1750, for the Murder of his Wife.

THIS unfortunate man appears to have been goaded on to the commission of the rash deed for which he suffered, by the ill conduct of his wife and her mother; hence he too, though a crime in itself so heinous, cannot be passed over, without one single lamentation on his fate. Though the law cannot take cognizance of our passions, in all cases, yet the best of men have sometimes been driven, in a momentary madness, to do a deed which, if not punished for it, has for ever destroyed their peace of mind. So it appears in the case of Vicars; who, we may conclude, had not the law terminated his misery, would never more have tasted the sweet repose of a quiet conscience. While females reflect on the fate of this man, let them resolve to guard against

the too free use of their tongues; and let men, however aggravated by them, endeavour to curb their passions in their resentment.

Amy Hutchinson and John Vicars suffered together, the one for the murder of her husband, the other for destroying his wife; and yet we find different punishments. It has been already observed, that the consuming of the strangled body of a woman for such a crime, has been of late years dispensed with, for though it gave not an additional pang, yet it shocked humanity in a ten-fold degree. This part of the sentence of the law was, nevertheless, founded on a well-known part of the Christian system of religion, which says, "That wives should be obedient to their husbands in all things." Hence the law dealt more severely with a woman, by deeming her crime petit-treason, next in degree to high-treason, which is, encompassing the death of the reigning king, who is deemed the common parent of his subjects.

John Vicars' grandfather and father were born at Oxford, and lived in good credit, till misfortunes obliged them to go to Dodington, in the isle of Ely, where he was born.—His father dying and leaving him young, and his mother taking a second husband, he had but a slight education; at thirteen he was apprenticed to Mr. J. Aaron, of Holkham, Norfolk, gardener to Thomas Coke, Esq. (now Earl of Leicester) where he served his time faithfully; and was employed in the gardens, till an intrigue with a married woman obliged him to leave that place; and having a recommendation to Mr. Bridgman, gardener at Kensington place, he went and worked some time there, and then engaged himself to Captain Duroy, of the Exeter man of war, and served him about nine months, and being paid off, assisted in a party of smugglers about a year, and being taken prisoner with others by a Custom-house smack, near Rye, was committed to the new gaol in Southwark, tried, and acquitted by the indulgence of the court. He then was employed in the Earl of Oxford's gardens at Chelsea, under Mr. Miller, where he staid one year; and afterwards worked successively at R. Man's, Esq. of Linton, near Maidstone, Kent;

at the Duke of Bolton's, at Hackwood, Hants; at Lady Derby's, near Chichester: for Mr. King at Brompton, Middlesex; at Lord Castlemain's, on Epping-Forest; for John Husday, near Thorney; for Mr. Beals, at Whittlesea; from most of which places he was obliged to abscond for some criminal correspondence with single or married women; he next lived at Adam England's, the sign of the Dolphin, in Whittlesea, during three years, and worked for several gentlemen in the neighbourhood.

Falling into company with one Anne Easom, he made love to her, and married her. They lived seven years very happily, but had no children; about that time she began to be very much, afflicted with illness, which altered her temper so much, that it occasioned frequent uneasines between them, and gave him such disgust, that he enlisted in the Duke of Bedford's regiment as a six months' man, where he continued about a year, and then came to his wife again, and lived with her till her death, which happened about twelve months after. He continued a widower about a year, in which time, observing one Mary Hainsworth to keep a great deal of company, he asked her one evening, if they were all her sweethearts; she replied, No. He then offered himself, met with great encouragement, and from that time says he was refused no favours. But had no intention of marriage, nor did he promise any such thing. They continued a criminal familiarity for a fortnight, all which time she pressed him to marry her. He told her there was no occasion for her to be in such a hurry; but she replied, she was with child; and if he would not marry her, she would get a warrant, and force him. He said, he should not care to be forced to do any think against his will; on which she replied, if he would not marry her she would certainly make away with herself. He then kept away for two or three nights, to see how she would behave. In the mean time came a hackney coachman to town, with whom she seemed to be so very much taken, that a woman who worked in his garden told him that he had lost his sweetheart. He said, he was glad of that, thinking he had got a good riddance, but he was not so fortunate. For two or

three nights after this, the coachman left the place; on which she flung herself in his way, and he says, he was so simple as to renew their former acquaintance, but not on the score of marriage, which she well knew, and agreed readily to keep him company; but after two or three nights she threatened him again with a warrant, if he would not marry her. At last, his affections growing stronger, on her repeated assurance, that she would make him a careful and industrious wife, he unfortunately married her; but not till he had earnestly desired, that if there were any other person for whom she had a greater respect than himself, she would consider of it, for when once married, it would be too late. —This unhappy woman had learned the glover's business, which she followed, and they lived very lovingly for about two months: but after that time, he says, words frequently arose between them, occasioned by her adhering to bad advice given her by her mother and others, by some of whom, she owned to him, she was advised to poison him — From words they came to blows, to which she provoked him, though he intreated her to forbear. At length she went away from him to live with her mother, and notwithstanding the most earnest entreaties, refused to return. One day, going by her mother's house with some fruit, and seeing his wife there, he went in, offered her some fruit, and forced a kiss from her, desiring to be reconciled; her mother came in, and after giving loose to her tongue in a virulent manner, fell to beating him, swearing she would kill him, and advising his wife, who had a knife in her hand, to stab him, which she endeavoured to do; but he feeling something against his belly, ran backwards to the door, and fell upon the threshold with the old woman upon him; he rolled her off, and getting up, found his thumb cut, a hole in his shirt, and the skin ruffled; then thinking himself in great danger, went home. But his mother-in-law and his wife swore the peace against him, and had a warrant to take him up. Upon April 24, therefore, to prevent their serving it, he went to a gentleman's about three miles from Whitlesea, to beg his advice, which was to make a bill of sale of his goods, and go off.—He resolved to do so, and came

back to Whittlesea, about six o'clock the same evening. By the way, on seeing his wife in the new shop which her mother had provided for her, his heart beat with love for her, but on the thoughts of her obstinacy, and that his life or ruin was what they aimed at, by laying him in gaol, then it was his resentment got the better of his reason. And stepping into the shop where she was sitting at work, and placing his left hand under her chin (he apprehended she thought he was going to kiss her, because she seemed to smile) and drawing his knife out of his pocket with his other hand, he made an attempt to cut her throat, but was prevented by her putting her hands up when she felt the knife: He then placed the point of the knife under her left ear, the back part upward, and stuck it downward, as they stick sheep.—She once cried Murder; he said, "Molly, 'tis now too late, you should have been ruled in time."—He then ran into the street, and called out for somebody to take him prisoner, but every one was afraid: on which he threatened, if they did not, he would do more mischief; on which one Thomas Boone taking hold of his arm, he surrendered himself: but appeared as a lunatic, till next day, when he was very calm. This account was signed by himself; and it being reported that he had committed more murders, he further desired it might be explained as follows:

"While he was gardener to R. Man, Esq; the garden was often robbed, on which his master set him to watch one night, armed with a gun and a hanger, and fixed a trap at the supposed place of entrance: The thief came, and soon saw reason to run off; but Vicars cut him in the leg with his hanger; besides which he was so unfortunate as to be taken in the trap, the teeth of which reaching about the middle of his body, struck into him, so that being carried before a justice and committed to Maidstone goal, he soon after died of his wounds; but this I apprehend (says he) cannot be deemed a murder."

While in prison, he said, that he dearly loved his wife, but her provocation was so great, and she was such a d——n'd w——re, that he could not let her live, nor live without her, he first intending to kill himself also. He per-

sisted in it, that he should do the same again, on such provocation, though he injured many in the same way without reluctance.

Vicars, at the tree, behaved very steadily, but penitent, praying with the minister, and singing Psalm the 6th, which he chose, and joined also in Hutchinson's Psalm (LI.) He shook hands with several, and bowed to the company, affecting much discourse, and reflecting on several people of Whittlesea by name; in short, the conduct of the man was such, and there was in him such a mixture of penitence and unconcern, that sensible people were at a loss how to pronounce their opinion about him. He desired to see the woman first dispatched; and accordingly her face and hands being smeared with tar, and having a garment daubed with pitch, after a short prayer the executioner strangled her, and twenty minutes after, the fire was kindled, and burnt half an hour. He went then to Vicars, who very undauntedly helping him to fix the knot, he immediately threw himself off, and expired in a few minutes.

WILLIAM PARSONS, Esq.

(Eldest son and heir to Sir William Parsons, Bart. of the County of Nottingham.)

Executed at Tyburn, February 11, 1751, for returning from Transportation.

THE mind of sensibility must feel for the situation of the relatives of the meanest malefactor; but when, as in the present case, we find an old and honourable family, involved in disgrace from vices of the heir, we are shocked at such mutability in the laws of nature, and degeneracy in ties of blood.

The unhappy subject of this narrative was born in London, in the year 1717. He was placed under the care of a pious and learned divine at Pepper-harrow, in Surrey, where he

received the first rudiments of his education. In a little more than three years, he was removed to Eton college, where it was intended that he should qualify himself for one of the universities.

While he was a scholar at Eton, he was detected in stealing a volume of Pope's Homer in the shop of a bookseller named Pote. Being charged with the fact, he confessed that he had stolen many other books at different times. The case being represented to the master, Parsons underwent a very severe discipline.

Though he remained at Eton nine years, his progress in learning was very inconsiderable. The youth was of so unpromising a disposition, that Sir William determined to send him to sea, as the most probable means to prevent his destruction, and soon procured him to be appointed midshipman on board a man of war, then lying at Spithead, under sailing orders for Jamaica, there to be stationed for three years.

Some accident detaining the ship beyond the time when it was expected she would sail, Parsons applied for leave of absence, and went on shore; but having no intention to return, he immediately directed his course towards a small town about ten miles from Portsmouth, called Bishop's Waltham, where he soon ingratiated himself into the favour of the principal inhabitants.

His figure being pleasing, and his manner of address easy and polite, he found but little difficulty in recommending himself to the ladies.

He became greatly enamoured of a beautiful and accomplished young lady, the daughter of a physician of considerable practice, and prevailed upon her to promise she would yield her hand in marriage.

News of the intended marriage coming to the knowledge of his father Sir William, and his uncle, the latter hastened to Waltham to prevent a union which he apprehended would inevitably produce the ruin of the contracting parties.

With much difficulty the uncle prevailed upon Parsons to return to the ship, which in a few days afterwards proceeded on her voyage.

The ship had not been long arrived at the place of destination, when Parsons resolved to desert, and return to England, and soon found an opportunity of shipping himself on board the Sheerness man of war, then preparing to sail on her return home.

Immediately after his arrival in England, he set out for Waltham, in order to visit the object of his desires; but his uncle being apprised of his motions, repaired to the same place, and represented his character in so unfavourable, but at the same time in so just a manner, as prevented the renewal of his addresses to the physician's daughter.

He went home with his uncle, who observed his conduct with a most scrupulous attention, and confined him, as much as possible, within doors. This generous relation at length exerted his interest to get the youth appointed midshipman on board his Majesty's ship the Romney, which was ordered on the Newfoundland station.

Upon his return from Newfoundland, Parsons learnt with infinite mortification, that the duchess of Northumberland, to whom he was related, had revoked a will made in his favour, and bequeathed to his sister a very considerable legacy, which he had expected to enjoy. He was repulsed by his friends and acquaintance, who would not in the least countenance his visits at their houses; and his circumstances now became exceedingly distressed.

Thus situated he applied to a gentleman named Bailey, with whom he had formerly lived on terms of intimacy; and his humanity induced him to invite Parsons to reside in his house, and to furnish him with the means of supporting the character of a gentleman. Mr. Bailey also was indefatigable in his endeavours to effect a reconciliation between young Parsons and his father, in which he at length succeeded.

Sir William having prevailed upon his son to go abroad again, and procured him an appointment under the governor of James Fort, on the river Gambia, he embarked on board a vessel in the service of the Royal African company.

Parsons had resided at James Fort about six months, when a disagreement took place between him and governor Aufleur; in consequence of which the former signified a

resolution of returning to England. Hereupon the governor informed him that he was commissioned to engage him as an indented servant for five years. Parsons warmly expostulated with the governor, declaring that his behaviour was neither that of a man of probity or a gentleman, and requested permission to return. But so far from complying, the governor issued orders to the centinels to be particularly careful lest he should effect an escape.

Notwithstanding every precaution, Parsons found means to get on board a homeward-bound vessel, and being followed by Mr. Aufleur, he was commanded to return, but cocking a pistol, and presenting it to the governor, he declared he would fire upon any man who should presume to molest him. Hereupon the governor departed, and in a short time the ship sailed for England.

Soon after his arrival in his native country, he received an invitation to visit an uncle who lived at Epsom, which he gladly accepted, and experienced a most cordial and friendly reception.

He resided with his uncle about three months, and was treated with all imaginable kindness and respect. At length one of the female servants in the family swore herself to be pregnant by him, which so incensed the old gentleman, that he dismissed Parsons from his house.

Reduced to the most deplorable state of poverty, he directed his course towards the metropolis; and three halfpence being his whole stock of money, he subsisted four days upon the bread purchased with that small sum, quenching his thirst at the pumps he casually met with in the streets. He lay four nights in a hay-loft, in Chancery-lane, belonging to the Master of the Rolls, by permission of the coachman, who pitied his truly deplorable case.

At length he determined to apply for redress to an ancient gentlewoman with whom he had been acquainted in his more youthful days, when she was in the capacity of companion to the duchess of Northumberland. Weak and emaciated through want of food, his appearance was rendered still more miserable by the uncleanliness and disorder of his apparel; and when he appeared before the old lady,

she tenderly compassionated his unfortunate situation, and recommended him to a decent family in Cambridge-street, with whom he resided some time in a very comfortable manner, the old gentlewoman defraying the charge of his lodging and board; and a humane gentleman, to whom she had communicated his case, supplying him with money for common expenses.

Sir William came to town at the beginning of the winter, and received an unexpected visit from his son, who dropped upon his knees, and supplicated forgiveness with the utmost humility and respect. His mother-in-law was greatly enraged at his appearance, and upbraided her husband with being foolishly indulgent to so graceless a youth, at the same time declaring, that she would not live in the house where he was permitted to enter.

Sir William asked him what mode of life he meant to adopt; and his answer was that he was unable to determine; but would cheerfully pursue such measures as so indulgent a parent should think proper to recommend. The old gentleman then advised him to enter as a private man in the horse-guards; which he approved of saying, he would immediately offer himself as a volunteer.

Upon mentioning his intention to the adjutant, he was informed that he must pay seventy guineas for his admission into the corps. This news proved exceedingly afflicting, as he had but little hope that his father would advance the necessary sum. Upon returning to his father's lodgings, he learnt that he had set out for the country, and left him a present of only five shillings.

Driven now nearly to a state of distraction, he formed the desperate resolution of putting an end to his life, and repaired to St. James's park, intending to throw himself into Rosamond's pond. While he stood on the brink of the water, waiting for an opportunity of carrying his impious design into effect, it occurred to him, that a letter he had received, mentioning the death of an aunt, and that she had bequeathed a legacy to his brother, might be made use of to his own advantage: and he immediately declined the thoughts of destroying himself.

He produced the letter to several persons, assuring them that the writer had been misinformed respecting the legacy, which in reality was left to himself. Under the pretext of being entitled to the above legacy, he obtained money and effects from different people to a considerable amount; and among those who were deceived by the above stratagem, was a tailor in Devereux-court in the strand, who gave him credit for several genteel suits of clothes.

The money and other articles thus fraudulently obtained, enabled him to engage in scenes of gaiety and dissipation; and he seemed to entertain no idea that his happiness would be but of short duration.

Accidentally meeting the brother of the young lady to whom he had made professions of love at Waltham, he intended to renew his acquaintance with him, and his addresses to his sister: but the young gentleman informed Parsons that his sister died suddenly a short time after his departure from Waltham.

Parsons endeavoured, as much as possible to cultivate the friendship of the above young gentleman, and represented his case in so plausible a manner, as to obtain money from him at different times to a considerable amount.

Parsons' creditors now became exceedingly importunate, and he thought there was no probability of relieving himself from his difficulties, but by connecting himself in a marriage with a woman of fortune.

Being eminently qualified in those accomplishments which are known to have a great influence over the female world, Parsons soon ingratiated himself into the esteem of a young lady possessed of handsome independency, bequeathed her by her lately deceased father. He informed his creditors that he had a prospect of an advantageous marriage; and as they were satisfied that the lady had a good fortune, they supplied him with every thing necessary for prosecuting the amour, being persuaded that, if the expected union took place, they should have no difficulty in recovering their respective demands.

The marriage was solemnized on the 10th of February, 1740, in the 23d year of our malefactor's age. On occasion

of this event, the uncle, who lived at Epsom, visited him in London, and gave him the strongest assurances that he would exert every possible endeavour to promote his interest and happiness, on condition that he would avoid such proceedings as would render him unworthy of friendship and protection. His relations in general were perfectly satisfied with the connexion he had made, and hoped that his irregular and volatile disposition would be corrected by the prudent conduct of his bride, who was justly esteemed a young lady of great sweetness of temper, virtue, and discretion.

A few weeks after his marriage, his uncle interceded in his behalf with the right honourable Arthur Onslow; and through the interest of that gentleman he was appointed an ensign in the thirty-fourth regiment of foot.

He now discharged all his debts, which proved highly satisfactory to all his relations; and this conduct was the means of his obtaining further credit in times of future distress.

He hired a very handsome house in Poland-street, where he resided two years, in which time he had two children, one of whom died very young. From Poland-street he removed to Panton-square, and the utmost harmony subsisted between him and his wife, who were much respected by their relations and acquaintances.

But it must be observed, that though his conduct in other respects had been irreproachable from the time of his marriage, he was guilty of unpardonable indiscretion as to the manner of his living; for he kept three saddle-horses, a chaise and pair, several unnecessary servants, and engaged in many other superfluous expenses that his income could not afford.

Unfortunately Parsons became acquainted with an infamous gambler, who seduced him to frequent gaming-houses, and to engage in play. He lost considerable sums, which were shared between the pretended friend of Parsons, and his wicked accomplices.

Parsons was now promoted to a lieutenancy in a regiment that was ordered into Flanders, and he was accompanied to

that country by the abandoned miscreant, whom he considered as his most valuable friend. The money he lost in gaming, and the extravagant manner in which he lived, in a short time involved him in such difficulties that he was under the necessity of selling his commission, in order to discharge his debts contracted in Flanders. The commission being sold, Parsons and his treacherous companion returned to England.

His arrival was no sooner known, than his creditors were extremely urgent for the immediate discharge of their respective claims; which induced him to take a private lodging in Gough-square, where he passed under the denomination of captain Brown. He pretended to be an unmarried man; and saw his wife only when appointments were made to meet at a public-house. While he lodged in Gough-square, he seduced his landlord's daughter, who became pregnant by him; and her imprudence in yielding to the persuasions of Parsons, proved the means of involving her in extreme distress.

His creditors having discovered the place of his retreat, he deemed it prudent to remove; and at this juncture an opportunity offered by which he hoped to retrieve his fortune; and he therefore embarked as captain of marines on board the Dursley privateer.

Soon after the arrival of the ship at Deal, Parsons went on shore, provided with pistols, being determined not to submit to an arrest, which he supposed would be attempted. He had no sooner landed on the beach, than he was approached by five or six men, one of whom attempted to seize him; but Parsons, stepping aside, discharged one of the pistols, and lodged a ball in the man's thigh. He then said he was well provided with weapons, and would fire upon them if they presumed to give him further molestation. Hereupon the officers retreated; and Parsons returned to the ship, which sailed from Deal the following morning.

They had been in the channel about a week, when they made a prize of a French privateer, which they carried into the port of Cork. Parsons being now afflicted with a disorder that prevailed among the French prisoners, was sent on shore

for the recovery of his health. During his illness the vessel sailed on another cruize, and he was no sooner in a condition to permit him to leave his apartment, than he became anxious to partake of the fashionable amusements.

In order to recruit his finances, which were nearly exhausted, he drew bills of exchange on three merchants in London, on which he raised 60l.; and before advice could be transmitted to Cork, that he had no effects in the hands of the persons on whom he had drawn the bills, he embarked on board a vessel bound for England.

He landed at Plymouth, where he resided some time under a military character, to support his claim to which he was provided with a counterfeit commission. He frequented all places of public resort, and particularly where gaming was permitted. His money being nearly expended, he obtained a hundred pounds from a merchant of Plymouth, by means of a false draft upon an alderman of London. Some time after the discovery of the fraud, the injured party saw Parsons a transport prisoner on board a ship bound to Virginia, lying in Catwater bay, where he assured him of an entire forgiveness, and made him a present of a guinea.

From Plymouth, Parsons repaired to London, and his money being nearly spent, he committed the following fraud, in conjunction with a woman of the town: taking his accomplice to a tavern in the strand (where he was known,) he represented her as an heiress, who had consented to a private marriage, and requested the landlord to send immediately for a clergyman. The parson being arrived, and about to begin the ceremony, Parsons pretending to recollect that he had forgot to provide a ring, and ordered the waiter to tell some shop-keeper in the neighbourhood to bring some plain gold rings. Upon this the clergyman begged to recommend a very worthy man, who kept a jeweller's shop in the neighbourhood: and Parsons said it was a matter of indifference with whom he laid out his money; adding, that as he wished to compliment his bride with some small present, the tradesman might also bring some diamond rings.

The rings being brought, and one of each chosen, Parsons produced a counterfeit draft, saying, the jeweller might either give him change then, or call for payment after the ceremony; on which the jeweller retired, saying, he would attend again in the afternoon. In a little time, the woman formed a pretence for leaving the room, and upon her not returning soon, our hero affected great impatience, and, without taking his hat, quitted the apartment, saying, he would inquire of the people of the house whether his bride had not been detained by some unforeseen accident.

After waiting a considerable time, the clergyman called the landlord; and, as neither Parsons nor the woman could be found, it was rightly concluded, that their whole intention was to perpetrate a fraud. In the mean time, our hero and his accomplice, met at an appointed place, and divided their booty.

Soon after the above transaction, Parsons intimated to a military officer, that, on account of the many embarrassments he was under, he was determined to join the rebel army, as the only expedient by which he could avoid being lodged in prison. The gentleman represented the danger of engaging in such an adventure, and lest his distress should precipitate him to any rash proceeding, generously supplied him with forty guineas, to answer present exigencies.

He soon after borrowed the above gentleman's horse, pretending that he had occasion to go a few miles into the country, on a matter of business; but he immediately rode to Smithfield, where he sold the horse at a very inadequate price.

That he might escape the resentment of the gentleman whom he had treated in so unworthy a manner, he lodged an information against him, as being disaffected to the government: in consequence of which he was deprived of his commission, and suffered an imprisonment of six months. He exhibited informations of a similar nature against two other gentlemen, who had been most liberal benefactors to him, in revenge for refusing any longer to supply him with the means of indulging his extravagant and profligate dispositions

In the year 1745, he counterfeited a draft upon one of the collectors of the excise, in the name of the duke of Cumberland, for five hundred pounds. He carried the draft to the collector, who paid him fifty pounds in part, being all the cash that remained in his hands.

He went to a tailor, saying, he meant to employ him on the recommendation of a gentleman of the army, whom he had long supplied with clothes; adding, that a captain's commission was preparing for him at the war-office. The tailor furnished him with several suits of clothes; but not being paid according to agreement, he entertained some suspicion as to the responsibility of his new customer; and therefore inquired at the war-office respecting captain Brown, and learnt that a commission was making out for a gentleman of that name. Unable to get any part of the money due to him, and determined to be no longer trifled with, he instituted a suit at common-law, but was non-suited, having laid his action in the fictitious name of Brown, and it appearing that Parsons was the defendant's real name.

Parsons sent a porter from the Ram Inn, in Smithfield, with a counterfeit draft upon Sir Joseph Hankey, and Co. for five hundred pounds. Parsons followed the man, imagining that if he came out of Sir John's house alone, he would have received the money; and that if he was accompanied by any person, it would be a strong proof of the forgery being discovered; upon observing Sir Joseph and the porter get into a hackney-coach, he resolved not to return to the inn.

He next went to a widow named Bottomley, who lived near St. George's church, and saying he had contracted to supply the regiment to which he belonged with hats, gave her an order to the amount of a hundred and sixty pounds. He had no sooner got possession of the hats, than he sold them to a Jew for one half of the sum he had agreed to pay for them.

Being strongly apprehensive that he could not long avoid being arrested by some of his numerous and highly exasperated creditors, by means of counterfeit letters, he

procured himself to be taken into custody, as a person disaffected to the king and government; and he was supported without expense, in the house of one of the king's messengers, for the space of eighteen months.

Being released from the messenger's house, he revolved in his mind a variety of schemes for eluding the importunity of his creditors, and at length determined to embark for Holland.

He remained in Holland a few months, and when his money was nearly expended he returned to England. A few days after his arrival in London, he went to a masquerade, where he engaged in play to the hazard of every shilling he possessed, and was so fortunate as to obtain a sufficient sum for his maintenance for several months.

His circumstances being again distressed, he wrote in pressing terms to his brother-in-law, who was an East India Director, intreating that he would procure a commission in the company's service, either by land or sea. The purport of the answer was, that a gentleman in the Temple was authorized to give the supplicant a guinea, but that it would be fruitless for him to expect any further favours.

Having written a counterfeit draft, he went to Ranelagh on a masquerade night, where he passed the draught to a gentleman who had won some small sums of him. The party who received the draft offered it for payment in a day or two afterwards, when it was proved to be a counterfeit, in consequence of which Parsons was apprehended, and committed to Wood-street Compter.

As no prosecutor appeared, Parsons was necessarily acquitted; but a detainer being lodged, charging him with an offence similar to the above, he was removed to Maidstone gaol, in order for trial at the Lent assizes at Rochester.

Mr. Carey, the keeper of the prison, treated Parsons with great humanity, allowing him to board in his family, and indulging him in every privilege that he could grant, without a manifest breach of the duties of his office. But such was the ingratitude of Parsons, that he meditated a plan, which, had it taken effect, would have utterly ruined the man to whom he was indebted in such great obligations.

His intention was privately to take the keys from Mr. Carey's apartment; and not only to escape himself, but even to give liberty to every prisoner in the gaol; and this scheme he communicated to a man accused of being a smuggler, who reported the matter to Mr. Carey, desiring him to listen to an appointed hour at night, when he would hear a conversation that would prove his intelligence to be authentic. Mr. Carey attended at the appointed time: and being convinced of the ingratitude and perfidy of Parsons, he abridged him of the indulgences he had before enjoyed, and caused him to be closely confined.

Being convicted at the assizes at Rochester, he was sentenced to transportation for seven years: and in the following September he was put on board the Thames, captain Dobbins, bound for Maryland, in company with upwards of one hundred and seventy other convicts, fifty of whom died in the voyage. In November, 1749, Parsons was landed at Annapolis, in Maryland; and having remained in a state of slavery about seven weeks, a gentleman of considerable property and influence, who was not wholly unacquainted with his family, compassionating his unfortunate situation, obtained his freedom, and received him at his house in a most kind and hospitable manner.

Parsons had not been in the gentleman's family many days before he rode off with a horse which was lent him by his benefactor, and proceeded towards Virginia; on the borders of which country he stopped a gentleman on horseback, and robbed him of five pistoles, a moidore, and ten dollars.

A few days after, he stopped a lady and gentleman in a chaise, attended by a negro servant, and robbed them of eleven guineas and some silver: after which he directed his course to Polamuck river, where finding a ship nearly ready to sail for England, he embarked, and after a passage of twenty-five days landed at Whitehaven.

He now produced a forged letter, in the name of one of his relations, to a capital merchant of Whitehaven, signifying that he was entitled to the family estate, in consequence of his father's decease, and prevailed upon him to discount a false draft upon a banker in London for seventy five pounds.

Upon his arrival in the metropolis, he hired a handsome lodging at the West end of the town: but he almost constantly resided in houses of ill fame, where the money he had so unjustifiably obtained was soon dissipated.

Having hired a horse, he rode to Hounslow-heath, where between ten and eleven o'clock at night he stopped a post-chaise, in which were two gentlemen, whom he robbed of five guineas, some silver, and a watch.

A short time afterwards he stopped a gentleman near Turnham-green, about twelve o'clock at night, and robbed him of thirty shillings, and a gold ring. He requested that the ring might be returned, as he valued it, being his wife's wedding ring. Parsons complied with the gentleman's request, and voluntarily returned the gentleman five shillings, telling him at the same time, that nothing but the most pressing necessity could have urged him to the robbery: after which the gentleman shook hands with the robber, assuring him that, on account of the civility of his behaviour, he would not appear to prosecute, if he should hear of his being apprehended.

He attempted to rob a gentleman in a coach and four near Kensington, but hearing some company on the road, he proceeded towards Hounslow; and on his way thither overtook a farmer, and robbed him of between forty and fifty shillings. He then took the road to Colnbrook, and robbed a gentleman's servant of two guineas and a half, and a silver watch. After this he rode to Windsor, and returned to London by a different road.

His next expedition was on Hounslow road; and at the entrance of the heath he stopped two gentlemen, and robbed them of seven guineas, some silver and a curiously wrought silver snuff-box.

Returning to his lodgings near Hydepark-corner one evening, he overtook a footman in Piccadilly, and joining company with him, a familiar conversation took place, in the course of which Parsons learnt that the other was to set out early on the following Sunday with a portmanteau, containing cash and notes to a considerable value, the property of his master, who was then at Windsor.

On the Sunday morning he rode towards Windsor, intending to rob the footman. Soon after he had passed Turnham-green, he overtook two gentlemen, one of whom was Mr. Fuller, who had prosecuted him at Rochester, and who, perfectly recollecting his person, warned him not to approach. However he paid no attention to what Mr. Fuller said, but still continued sometimes behind and sometimes before them, though at a very considerable distance.

Upon coming into the town of Hounslow, the gentlemen alighted, and commanded Parsons to surrender, adding, that if he did not instantly comply, they would alarm the town. He now dismounted, and earnestly entreated that the gentlemen would permit him to speak to them in private, which they consented to; and the parties being introduced to a room at an inn, Parsons surrendered his pistols, which were loaded and primed, and supplicated for mercy in the most pathetic terms.

In all probability he would have been permitted to escape, had not Mr. Day, landlord of the Rose and Crown at Hounslow, come into the room, and advised that he might be detained, as he conceived him very nearly to answer the description of a highwayman by whom the roads in that part of the country had been long infested. He was secured at the inn till the next day, and then examined by a magistrate, who committed him to Newgate.

Parsons was now arraigned for returning from transportation before the expiration of the term of his sentence; nothing therefore remained to convict him but the identifying his person. This done he received sentence of death. His distressed father and wife used all their interest to obtain for him a pardon, but in vain: he was an old offender, and judged by no means a fit object for mercy.

While Parsons remained in Newgate, his behaviour was such that it could not be determined whether he entertained a proper idea of his dreadful situation. There is indeed but too much reason to fear that the hopes of a reprieve (in which he deceived himself even to the last moments of his life) induced him to neglect the necessary preparation for eternity.

His taking leave of his wife afforded a scene extremely affecting: he recommended to her parental protection his only child, and regretted that his misconduct had put it in the power of a censorious world to reflect upon both the mother and son.

At the place of execution he joined in the devotional exercises with a fervency of zeal that proved him to be convicted of the necessity of obtaining the pardon of his Creator.

THOMAS QUIN, JOSEPH DOWDELL, AND THOMAS TALBOT.

(A Gang of notorious Thieves.)

Executed at Tyburn, June 17, 1751, for Robbery.

" At length these miserable robbers see
" Unhappy fruit suspended on the tree;
" They teach, sad lesson! in their wretched state,
" That shame and ruin are the villain's fate;
" And that, too late, each guilty man will find,
" That Justice, tho' sometimes slow, is never blind."

THE villains disclosed in this narrative, will shew the necessity of the act of parliament lately made for inflicting punishment on masters and mistresses giving a false character of a servant.

A corrupt servant is the most dangerous inmate of a house; and, therefore, too much caution cannot be used in admitting such domestics.

Quin, a murderer in his own country, Ireland, was recommended to London, as a youth of good morals; while his disposition was base to a great degree.

Dowdell, who, in his apprenticeship, had injured his first master, produced a recommendation to another, to whom he also proved a villain.

Talbot, the third of this dangerous gang, after having

robbed on the highway, and being afraid of apprehension, on applying to be restored to honest servitude, was refused, but his master, in pity to his distresses, recommended him to a nobleman.

Talbot, on the first opportunity, robbing his noble employer, we would ask, whether the late master knowing the servant to have been a thief, was not, in recommending him to an honest employ, virtually, the greater villain of the two? In fine, they were all, from early youth, delinquents; and each had been imposed on honest people, by those who knew them to be such.—No wonder, then, that they will be found thereof the greatest rascals in this Calendar of crimes.

Quin was a native of Dublin, the son of honest, but poor parents: and his father dying, while he was a child, his uncle put him to school, and afterwards placed him apprentice to a buckle-maker, with whom he served three years faithfully; but his friends supplying him with clothes too genteel for his rank in life, he began to associate with gay company, and was guilty of many irregularities.

These thoughtless youths were frequently concerned in riots, and Quin was considered as the head of the party. In one of these nocturnal insurrections, Quin murdered a man, whose friends watching him to his master's house, desired that he might be delivered up to Justice; but some of the journeymen sallying forth with offensive weapons, drove off the people; but a warrant being issued for apprehending the murderer, his master advised him to depart for England.

A subscription for his use being raised by his friends, he came to London, having recommendations to some gentlemen in that city; but of these he made no use; for frequenting the purlieus of St. Giles's, he spent his money among the lowest of his countrymen, and then entered on board a man of war.

After a service of six months, he quitted the ship at Leghorn, and sailed in another vessel to Jamaica, where he received his wages, which he soon spent. He now agreed to work his passage to England, and the ship arriving in the port of London, he took lodgings in St. Giles's, and soon after became acquainted with Dowdell and Talbot, of whom we are now to give an account.

Dowdell was the son of a bookbinder in Dublin, who being in low circumstances, was unable to educate his children as he could have wished. His son Joseph, who was remarkable for the badness of his disposition, he apprenticed to a breeches-maker; but the graceless youth grew weary of his place before he had served two years of his time.

Dowdell being ordered by his master to take proper care of some green leather, particularly to defend it from the snow; instead thereof he heaped such quantities of snow and ice on it, that it was greatly reduced in value. This circumstance so exasperated his master, that he was glad to get rid of him by delivering up his indentures of apprenticeship.

Thus at large, and the father ill able to support him, he was recommended to the service of a gentleman in the country, with whom he might have lived happily; but he behaved badly in this place, and running away to Dublin, commenced pick-pocket.

After some practice in this way, he became connected with a gang of house-breakers, in company with whom he committed several depredations in Dublin. Having broke open a gentleman's house, he was opposed by the servants, and effected his escape only by the use he made of a hanger; soon after which he was taken by the watchmen, and being carried before a magistrate, he was committed to prison till the next morning. His person was advertized, and he was brought to trial, but none of the servants being able to swear to him, he was acquitted for want of evidence.

He now renewed his dangerous practices, and committed a variety of robberies. The following is one of the most singular of his exploits. Going to the house of a farmer, near Dublin, he pretended to be a citizen who wanted a lodging, for the benefit of his health, and he would pay a liberal price.

The unsuspecting farmer put his lodger into the best chamber, and supplied his table in the most ample manner. After a residence of ten days, he asked the farmer's company to the town of Finglass, where he wanted to purchase some necessaries. The farmer attending, Dowdell purchased

some articles at different shops, till seeing a quantity of gold in a till, he formed a resolution of appropriating it to his own use.

Having returned home with the farmer, Dowdell pretended to recollect that he had omitted to purchase some medicines, which he must take that night, and which had occasioned his going to Finglass. Hereupon the farmer ordered a horse to be saddled, and Dowdell set forwards, on a promise to return before night.

On his arrival at Finglass he put up his horse, and stealing unperceived into the shop above-mentioned, he stole the till with the money, and immediately set out for Dublin.

In the interim the farmer, missing his lodger, went to Finglass, and not finding him there, proceeded to Dublin, where he chanced to put up his horse at the same inn where Dowdell had taken up his quarters.

In a short time he saw our adventurer with some dealers, to whom he would have sold the horse; on which the farmer procured a constable, seized the offender, and lodged him in prison.

For this presumed robbery (a real one, doubtless, in the intention) he was brought to trial; but it appearing that the farmer had entrusted him with the horse, he could be convicted of nothing more than a fraud, for which he received sentence of transportation.

The vessel in which he sailed, being overtaken by a storm, was dashed on the rocks of Cumberland, and many lives were lost; but several, among whom was Dowdell, swam on shore, and went to Whitehaven, where the inhabitants contributed liberally to their relief. Dowdell travelling to Liverpool, entered on board a privateer, which soon took several prizes, for which he received 60l. to his share, which he soon squandered in the most thoughtless extravagance. Being reduced to poverty, he robbed a Portuguese gentleman; for which he was apprehended, but afterwards released on the intercession of the gentleman of the English factory on which he sailed for England, and arrived at London.

He had not been long in the metropolis before he associated with a gang of pick-pockets and street-robbers,

(among whom was one Carter), whose practice it was to commit depredations at the doors of the theatres. Dowdell had not long entered into this association, before he and Carter went under the Piazzas in Covent-Garden, where the latter demanded a gentleman's money, while Dowdell watched at a little distance, to give notice in case of a surprise. While Carter was examining the gentleman's pockets, he drew his sword, and killed the robber on the spot; and a mob gathering at the instant, it was with great difficulty that Dowdell effected his escape.

He now went to the lodgings of a woman of ill fame, who having been heretofore kept by a man of rank, he had given her a gold watch and some trifling jewels, which Dowdell advised her to pawn, to raise him ready money.

The girl hesitating to comply, he beat her in a most violent manner; on which she swore the peace against him; whereupon he was lodged in Newgate; but discharged at the next sessions, no prosecution being commenced against him.

He was no sooner at large, than he made a connexion with a woman of the town, whom an officer had taken to Gibraltar, and during her residence with him she had saved a hundred moidores. Dowdell having possessed himself of this sum, soon spent it extravagantly, and then prevailed on her to pawn her clothes for his support.

Talbot was the son of poor parents, who lived in Wapping, and having received a common education, he engaged himself as a driver of a post chaise, in the service of a stable-keeper in Piccadilly. While he was driving two gentlemen on the Bath road, a highwayman stopped the carriage, and robbed them of their watches and money.

This circumstance gave Talbot an idea of acquiring money by illicit means: wherefore, on his return to London, he made himself acquainted with some highwaymen, assuring them that he was properly qualified to give them the intelligence necessary for the successful management of their business.

His proposal met with a ready acceptance; and a company having soon afterwards hired a coach and six of his

master to go to Bath, Talbot gave one of the highwaymen notice of the affair; and it was resolved that the robbery should be committed on Hounslow-heath.

The highwayman meeting the carriage on the appointed spot, robbed the parties of all they had; so that they were obliged to return to London for money before they could pursue their journey. Talbot's share of this ill-gotten booty amounted to fifty pounds, which gave him such spirits that he resolved to pursue the same iniquitous mode of living.

In consequence of this resolution, Talbot informed the highwayman of some company going to Bath, and he attempted to rob them: but a gentleman in the carriage shot him dead on the spot.

Mortified at this accident which had befel his friend, Talbot no sooner arrived in London than he determined to resign his employment, and commence robber on his own account; but previous to his engaging in this business, he spent his money in the worst company.

After several attempts to commit robberies, and having narrowly escaped the hands of justice, he grew sick of his employment, and requested his former master to take him into his service. This he declined; but, in pity to his distress, recommended him to a nobleman, in whose family he was engaged.

Talbot had been but a short time in his new place, before he robbed the house of several articles of value, which he sold to the Jews, to supply the extravagance of one of the maid servants, with whom he had an amour.

This theft was not discovered at the time; but Talbot was soon discharged from his place, in consequence of the badness of his temper, which rendered him insupportable to his fellow-servants.

On his dismission he spent his ready money with the most abandoned company, and then commencing housebreaker, committed a variety of depredations in the neighbourhood of London: for one of which he was apprehended, and brought to trial at the Old Bailey, but acquitted for want of evidence.

On the very evening he was acquitted, he stopped a carriage in Drury-lane, and robbed a gentleman of his money, which he soon spent among the most dissolute of both sexes; and within a week afterwards he broke into a house in Westminster, where he obtained plate and cash to a large amount, but was not apprehended for this offence.

In a few days he was taken into custody for picking a gentleman's pocket, brought to trial at the Old Bailey, sentenced to be transported for seven years, shipped to America, and sold to slavery.

He had not been long in this situation, when he embarked, at Boston in New England, on board a privateer: but, when at sea, he entered into a conspiracy with some of the sailors, to murder the officers, and seize the vessel: but the confederacy being discovered in time, a severe punishment was inflicted on Talbot and the other villains.

Talbot, quitting the privateer, sailed to England in a man of war, and engaging with some street-robbers in London, was apprehended, convicted, and sentenced to die: but he found interest to obtain a pardon on condition of transportation.

However, he had not been long abroad before he returned, in company with an abandoned woman, who had been transported at the same time; and this woman introduced him to the acquaintance of Quin and Dowdell, in company with whom he committed a considerable number of robberies.

These accomplices robbed six coaches one evening, and obtained considerable plunder; but this being soon spent in extravagance, they at length embarked in a robbery which cost them their lives.

Having made a connexion with one Cullen, they all joined in a street-robbery, and stopping a coach near Long Acre, robbed a gentleman of his watch and money.

Some people being informed of the affair, immediately pursued them; and Cullen, being taken into custody, was admitted an evidence against his accomplices, who were apprehended on the following day.

Being brought to trial at the next sessions at the Old

Bailey, they received sentence of death; but, after, conviction, seemed as little sensible of the enormity of their crimes, as almost any offenders whose cases we have had occasion to record.

Dowdell and Quin were Roman Catholics; and Talbot refusing to join in devotion with the ordinary of Newgate, at the place of execution, we can say nothing of the disposition of mind in which they left this world.

We would have wished the following exclamation in the mouths of these miserable sinners, at the time they made their dying atonements:

"O! omnipotent Creator! Such hellish deeds
"My soul abhors. O Lord! behold my frame,
"My inmost frame, and cleanse my sinful thoughts;
"Then ever guide me in thy perfect way,
"The way establish'd to eternal bliss."

These men died, we fear, unrepenting sinners.

THOMAS WILFORD.

A Cripple, yet the Murderer of his Wife

Executed at Tyburn, on the 22d day of June, 1752.

IN this malefactor, a wretch of the most depraved and low class of the metropolis, we find the passion of love inflamed by the "green-eyed monster," into jealousy; which, as in greater men, knowing no bounds, works up the mind to madness and desperation. The murder, in such instances, of the fair, and too often the frail partner of the heart generally ensues.

The jealous subject of our narrative, was born of very poor parents, at Fulham, in the county of Middlesex; and coming into the world with only one arm, he was received into the workhouse, where he was employed in going of

errands for the paupers, and occasionally for the inhabitants of the town; and he was distinguished by his inoffensive behaviour.

A girl of ill-fame, named Sarah Williams, being passed from the parish of St Giles in the Fields to the same workhouse, had art enough to persuade Wilford to marry her, though he was then only seventeen years of age; and their inclinations being made known to the churchwardens, they gave the intended bride forty shillings, to enable her to begin the world.

The young couple now went to the Fleet, and were married: after which they took lodgings in St. Giles's; and it was only on the Sunday succeeding the marriage that the murder was perpetrated. On that day, the wife having been out with an old acquaintance, staid till midnight; and on her return, Wilford, who was jealous of her conduct, asked her where she had been. She said to the Park, and would give him no other answer; a circumstance that inflamed him to such a degree, that a violent quarrel ensued; the consequence of which was fatal to the wife; for Wilford's passions were so irritated that he seized a knife, and she advancing towards him, he threw her down, and kneeling on her, cut her throat, so that her head was almost severed from her body.

He had no sooner committed the horrid deed, than he threw down the knife, opened the chamber-door, and was going down stairs, when a woman, who lodged in an adjacent room, asked who was there; to which Wilford replied, "It is me, I have murdered my poor wife, whom I loved as dearly as my own life."

On this the woman went down to the landlord of the house, and was immediately followed by Wilford, who said he had killed the woman that he loved beyond all the world, and was willing to die for the crime he had committed: and he did not make the slightest effort to escape.

On this the landlord called the watch, who, taking Wilford into custody, confined him for that night, and on the following day he was committed to Newgate by justice Fielding.

Being arraigned on the first day of the following sessions at the Old Bailey, he pleaded guilty; but, the court refusing to record his plea, he was put by till the last day, when he again pleaded guilty, but was prevailed on to put himself on his trial.*

Accordingly the trial came on; during which the prisoner did not seek to extenuate the crime of which he had been guilty: on the contrary, his penitent behaviour and flowing tears seemed to testify the sense he entertained of his offence. Every person present seemed penetrated with grief for his misfortunes.

The case of this malefactor has been the rather inserted, because he was the first that suffered in consequence of an act that passed in the year 1751, for the more effectual prevention of murder, which decrees that the convict shall be executed on the second day after conviction: for which reason it has been customary to try persons charged with murder on a Friday; by which indulgence, in case of conviction, the execution of the sentence is necessarily postponed till Monday; and by the same act it is ordained, that the convicted murderer shall be either hung in chains or anatomized.

The jury having found Wilford guilty, sentence against him was pronounced in the following terms: "Thomas Wilford, you stand convicted of the horrid and unnatural crime of murdering Sarah your wife. This court doth adjudge, that you be taken back to the place from whence you came, and there to be fed on bread and water till Wednesday next, when you are to be taken to the common place of execution and there hanged by the neck until you are dead; after which your body is to be publicly dissected and anatomized, agreeable to an act of parliament in that case made and provided: and may God Almighty have mercy on your soul!"

Both before and after conviction, Wilford behaved as a real penitent, and at the place of execution he exhibited

* Much praise is due to the humanity of the judges, who frequently prevail on a prisoner to retract his first plea of guilty; which very prisoner has been acquitted on his second arraignment.

the most genuine signs of contrition for the crime of which he had been guilty.

ANN WHALE,

Strangled and then burnt, for the murder of her husband; and Sarah Pledge, hanged for being her accomplice,

August 14, 1752, at Horsham, in Sussex.

IN every horrid case which we have hitherto adduced, some sordid motive is apparent for the commission of this very worst of murders. But here we can trace none—no hatred to her husband—no lustful appetite to satisfy by criminal means—no third of her husband's worldly possessions prompted her to the wicked deed. We cannot admit that a *woman* can have such influence over a *woman*, as to persuade her to murder her husband! especially a sober and affectionate husband!

The wretched woman appears to have been seduced by the Serpent, with much greater facility than our first mother. She was tempted by an apple, but this degenerate daughter appears to have been actuated by no motive, unless, indeed, to gratify her faithless friend's lurking revenge, in shedding the blood of her innocent husband, can be admitted in extenuation.

Ann Whale was born of respectable parents, at Horsham, in Sussex; but her father dying in her infancy, she was left to the care of her mother.

Early in life she gave evidence of an uncontrollable disposition, and having a dispute with her mother, she wandered into the country, and associated with people of bad character; but her mother in order to save her from ruin, at length prevailed on her to return home.

Soon after this, she was addressed by a sober young man, named James Whale; and as a relation had lately left her a legacy of eighty pounds, payable when she was of age,

and the mother readily consented to their alliance, the marriage took place.

They had not been long wedded, when they went to reside at a place called Steepwood; but soon returning to Horsham, they took up their residence in the house of Sarah Pledge, who was distantly related to Mrs. Whale.

A short time after their abode here, a misunderstanding happening between the women, Mr. Whale forbad Mrs. Pledge to come into his apartment; a circumstance that only tended to foment the quarrel.

Soon afterwards, however, the women were privately reconciled; and as the man was remarkably sober, and they were of opposite characters, it is the less to be wondered at, that they sought the means of his destruction.

Mrs. Whale having lain in, and being tolerably recovered, Mrs. Pledge took the advantage of her husband's absence, to come into her room, when she said, "Nan, let us get rid of this devil!" (meaning Mr. Whale.) The wife said, "How can we do it?" To which the other replied, "Let us give him a dose of poison."

The abandoned woman too readily consented to this horrid proposal; and the only difficulty which appeared to arise was, how the poison should be procured.

They first attempted their horrid purpose by roasting spiders and putting them into his beer; but finding this did not produce the effect, Mrs. Pledge undertook to purchase something more efficacious, and for that purpose went to several market towns, but as she went into each apothecary's shop, she either saw, or fancied she saw, some person who knew her, or that her conscience interposed. At length she went to an apothecary* at Horsham, to whom she was a stranger; but was still afraid, though she made the purchase.

* It is curious to reflect on this sordid, not to give him a harsher name, son of Galen. Through the workings of a wicked mind, which ever overcasts the countenance, could this seller of poison have no suspicion of an intent to put the death powder to a fatal use? Or was the profit of a *single penny*, sufficient to induce him to put into the hands of a mean, ignorant, strange woman, the speedy and secret means of death?

Hastening to her more wicked friend, she gave her the bane, and who, with equal dispatch, administered it; for at the moment her husband was fondling their child, on whom he doted, she mixed it in some hasty pudding, preparing for his supper. Unsuspicious, the affectionate, but unfortunate man, eat—was soon seized with the racking torments occasioned by that corrosive mineral, and the next day expired: but the neighbours suspecting that his death was occasioned by some sinister arts, a surgeon examined the body, and the coroner's jury being summoned, brought in a verdict of "Wilful Murder."

Hereupon Mrs. Whale and Mrs. Pledge being taken into custody, and carried before a magistrate, the latter wished to become evidence; but being separately examined, and both confessing the fact, they were committed to Horsham gaol.

On their trials, the confessions which they had signed were read, and some corroborative evidence arising, they were convicted, and received sentence of death.

For some time after conviction, Mrs. Pledge behaved in the most hardened manner, making use of profane expressions, and declaring that she would fight with the hangman at the place of execution. On the contrary, Mrs. Whale acknowledged the justice of the sentence which had condemned her, and gave evident signs of her being a real penitent.

On the evening preceding their execution, the clergyman who attended them, brought Mrs. Pledge into a better state of mind, and then administered the sacrament to both the convicts.

An immense crowd attended at the place of execution, where Pledge was hanged; and Whale, being tied to a stake, was first strangled, and then burnt to ashes, in the twenty-first year of her age.

We find another shocking instance of revenging injuries done by one person on the body of another, in the case of Rachel Beauchamp. This wretch having quarrelled with another woman, her neighbour, and not being able to ob-

tain of her the satisfaction she thirsted for, industriously inveigled the child of her antagonist, a beautiful little girl, of four years of age, and cut its throat? For this unprovoked murder she was hanged at Tyburn, the 13th day of January, 1752.

ANN WILLIAMS,

Executed at Gloucester, April 13, 1753, for the murder of her husband.

THE behaviour of this fiend, had long been a prelude to the diabolical crime which she committed. She was in her family turbulent and dictatorious; her husband, the very reverse. His mild and quiet disposition served only to nurse her opposition and violence. He had long given way to her in all things, and she, in return, ruled him with a rod of iron.

Before the commission of this horrid deed, we have found women make bad use of man's unqualified indulgence. Hence arose the vulgar saying of "the grey mare being the better horse;" of "hen-peck'd husbands," and many other irritating observations on men troubled with shrews.

The pliancy of the more unfortunate man in question could not shield him from the dread effects of the ascendency she had over him; it sunk into contempt, and she determined to rule alone. To effect this, her wicked heart suggested the death of her husband.

For this horrid purpose, she prevailed on their servant man, to purchase some white mercury, which she mixed in some gruel, and caused him to eat thereof. This mode of administering the poison, it was conjectured, was adopted in contempt to him, for it appeared, the poor man did not like gruel. She then directed him to draw her some ale, of which he also drank; and was immediately seized with violent purgings and vomiting. She told the man, whom it seems she meant afterwards to share her bed, that she "had given her husband the stuff he brought, and that it was operating purely!"

The dying man in his agonies, said, his wife was a wicked woman, that he was well, until she made him eat some pap, which had done his business, and that he should be a dead man on the morrow; and, in spite of medical aid, he died next day, his body being in a state of mortification.

The horrid crime being fully proved against her, she received sentence to be burnt at the stake, which sentence was accordingly carried into execution, among a number of spectators, who shewed little pity for her fate, and which became still more shocking, from denying the fact, so incontrovertibly proved, to the very last moment of her existence.

DOCTOR A. CAMERON,

Executed at Tyburn, June 7, 1753, greatly lamented, for high-treason.

THIS rebellion, now suppressed nearly eight years, and the British nation enjoying internal peace, added to an excellent character in private life, we could almost have wished the royal mercy had been extended to Dr. Cameron. Indeed the very small part he took in the crime for which he suffered, equal with the most active chief, he appears to have been drawn into the commission by his attending his elder brother alone, with his professional services.

By an act of attainder passed the year after the rebellion for the effectual punishment of persons concerned in it, the life of Dr. Cameron was forfeited to its rigour.

The brother of this unfortunate man was the chief of the family of their name in the Highlands, and had obtained the highest degree of reputation by his zealous and effectual endeavours to civilize the manners of his countrymen.

Dr. Cameron, being intended by his father for the profession of the law, was sent to Glasgow; where he continued his studies some years; but, having an attachment to the practice of physic, he entered in the university of Edinburgh; whence he went to Paris, and then completed his studies at Leyden in Holland.

Though well qualified to have cut a respectable figure in any capital city, yet he chose to reside for life near his native place; and, having returned to the Highlands, he married, and settled in the small town of Lochaber, where, though his practice was small, his generous conduct rendered him the delight of the neighbourhood. His wife bore him seven children and was pregnant of the eighth at the unfortunate period of his death.

While Dr. Cameron was living happy in the domestic way, the rebellion broke out, and laid the foundation of the ruin of himself and his family. The pretender having landed, went to the house of Mr. M'Donald, and sent for the doctor's brother, who went to him, and did all in his power to dissuade him from an undertaking from which nothing but ruin could ensue.

The elder Mr. Cameron having previously promised to bring all his clan in aid of the Pretender, the latter upbraided him with an intention of breaking his promise; which so affected the generous spirit of the Highlander, that he immediately went and took leave of his wife, and gave orders for his vassals, to the number of near twelve hundred, to have recourse to arms*.

This being done, he sent for his brother, to attend him as a physician: but the doctor urged every argument against so rash an undertaking; from which he even besought him on his knees to desist. The brother would not be denied; and the doctor at length agreed to attend him as a physician, though he absolutely refused to accept any commission in the rebel-army.

This unhappy gentleman was distinguished by his humanity; and gave the readiest assistance, by night or day, to any wounded men of the royal army, who were made prisoners by the rebels. His brother being wounded in the leg at the battle of Falkirk, he attended him with the kindest assiduity, till himself was likewise slightly wounded.

* At this time, Mr. Cameron's estate did not exceed seven hundred pounds per annum. His being able, then, to arm such a number, is a proof of the poverty and the vassalage of the country.

Dr. Cameron exhibited repeated instances of his humanity; but when the battle of Culloden gave a decisive stroke to the hopes of the rebels, he and his brother escaped to the western islands, whence they sailed to France, in a vessel belonging to that kingdom.

The doctor was appointed physician to a French regiment, of which his brother obtained the command; but the latter dying at the end of two years, the doctor became physician to Ogilvie's regiment, then in Flanders.

A subscription being set on foot, in England and Scotland, in the year 1750, for the relief of those persons who had been attainted, and escaped into foreign countries; the doctor came into England to receive the money for his unfortunate fellow-sufferers. At the end of two years another subscription was opened; when the doctor, whose pay was inadequate to the support of his numerous family, came once more to this country, and having written a number of urgent letters to his friends, it was rumoured that he was returned.

Hereupon a detachment from lord George Beauclerk's regiment was sent in search of him, and he was taken in the following manner:—Captain Graves, with thirty soldiers, going towards the place where it was presumed he was concealed, saw a little girl at the extremity of a village, who on their approach fled towards another village. She was pursued by a serjeant and two soldiers, who could only come near enough to observe her whispering to a boy, who seemed to have been placed for the purpose of conveying intelligence.

Unable to overtake the boy, they presented their guns at him; on which he fell on his knees, and begged his life; which they promised, on the condition that he would shew them the place where Dr. Cameron was concealed.

Hereupon the boy pointed to the house where he was, which the soldiers surrounded, and took him prisoner. Being sent to Edinburgh, he was thence conducted to London, and committed to the Tower.

While in this confinement, he was denied the use of pen, ink, and paper, nor suffered to speak to his friends but when the warder was present. On his examination before the

lords of the privy-council, he denied that he was the same Dr. Cameron whose name had been mentioned in the act of attainder; which made it necessary to procure living evidence to prove his identity.

Being brought to the bar of the court of king's bench on the 17th of May, he was arraigned on the act of attainder; when declining to give the court any farther trouble, he acnowledged that he was the person who had been attainted: on which the lord chief justice Lee pronounced sentence in the following terms: "You, Archibald Cameron, of Lochiel, in that part of Great Britain called Scotland, must be removed from hence to his majesty's prison of the Tower of London, from whence you came, and on Thursday, the seventh of June next, your body to be drawn on a sledge to the place of execution; there to be hanged, but not till you are dead; your bowels to be taken out, your body quartered, your head cut off, and affixed at the king's disposal; and the Lord have mercy on your soul!"

After his commitment to the Tower, he begged to see his wife, who was then at Lisle in Flanders; and, on her arrival, the meeting between them was inexpressibly affecting. The unhappy lady wept incessantly, on reflecting on the fate of her husband, herself, and numerous family.

Coming to take her final leave of him on the morning of execution, she was so agitated by her contending passions, that she was attacked by repeated fits, and, a few days after the death of her unfortunate husband, she became totally deprived of her senses.

On the 7th of June, the sheriffs went to the Tower, and demanded the body of Dr. Archibald Cameron, who was accordingly brought to them by William Ranford, Esq. the deputy-lieutenant.

As soon as he was seated on the sledge, whereon he was to be drawn to the place of execution, he requested to speak to his wife, but being informed that she had left the Tower, after taking leave of him, at eight o' clock, he replied, he was sorry for it; upon which the sledge moved towards Tyburn, among a great number of spectators, who all pitied his situation.

The doctor was dressed in a light-coloured coat, red waistcoat and breeches, and a new bag-wig. He looked much at the spectators in the houses and balconies, as well as at those in the streets, and bowed to several persons with whom he had been acquainted.

At a quarter past twelve the solemn procession reached the place of execution, where he looked on the officers and spectators, with an undaunted and composed countenance; and as soon as unloosed from the sledge, he started up, and with an heroic deportment, stept up into the cart, whence looking round with unconcern on all the apparatus of death, he smiled. Seeing the clergyman that had before attended him, coming up the steps, he came forward to meet him, and endeavoured, with his fettered hands, to help him up, saying, "So, are you come?—this is a glorious day to me!—'tis my new birth-day!—there are more witnesses at this birth than at my first."

The clergyman being now at the side of the cart, asked "how he felt himself;" he answered, "Thank God, I am very well, but a little fatigued with my journey: but, blessed be God, I am now come to the end of it."

The sheriff asking the clergyman, whether he would be long about his office, Dr. Cameron immediately took the words, and said, he required but very little time; for it was disagreeable to be there, and he was as impatient to be gone as they were.

The clergyman then demanded of the gentlemen who had spoke, whether he was the sheriff, and on being answered in the affirmative, he told him Dr. Cameron's business would be chiefly with him; that he had something to communicate to him, if he would take the trouble to come near, which he very readily complied with, and endeavoured to ride his horse close to the cart; but finding the beast a little unruly, and that he could not hear what the doctor said, by reason of the noise of the multitude, he beckoned with his hand for silence, but to no purpose; whereupon, he humanely alighted, and came up to the steps; whence, with great civility and attention, he listened to the doctor, who spoke to the following purpose:

"Sir,

"You see a fellow-subject, just going to pay his last debt; I more cheerfully resign my life, as it is taken from me for doing my duty, according to my conscience. I freely forgive all my enemies, and those who have been instrumental in taking away my life. I thank God, I die in charity with all men.

"As to my religion, I die a stedfast, though unworthy, member of that church in which I have always lived, the Church of England; in whose communion I hope (through the merits of my blessed Saviour) for forgiveness of my sins, for which I am heartily sorry.

"The custom of delivering something in writing, on such occasions as this, I should willingly have complied with, had it not been put out of my power, being denied the use of pen, ink, and paper, except in the presence of some of my keepers.

"But what I intend my country should be informed of, with regard to my dying sentiments, I have, by means of a blunt pencil, endeavoured to set down on some slips of paper, as I came by them, in as legible characters as I was able, and these I have left in the hands of my wife, charging her on her duty to her dying husband, to transmit, with all convenient speed, a faithful transcript of them to you; and I am confident she will faithfully discharge the trust."

This truly unfortunate man then told the sheriff, he would no longer presume upon his patience; but the sheriff, with looks that shewed a great deal of concern, begged he would take as much time as he pleased, for he would wait until he was ready—the doctor thanked him. He turned to the clergyman, and said, "I have now done with this world, and am ready to leave it."

He now joined him in some short prayers, and repeated some ejaculations out of the Psalms; then embraced the clergyman, and took his farewel.

As the divine was going down from the cart, he had nearly missed the steps, which the doctor observing, called to him in a cheerful tone of voice, saying, "Take care how

you go; I think you don't know this way as well as I do;" and now, giving the signal, the cart drew from under him.

After the body had hung twenty minutes, it was cut down; the heart was taken out, and burnt, but it was not quartered.

On the following Sunday the remains of Dr. Cameron were interred in a large vault in the Savoy chapel.

NICHOL BROWN,

Executed at Edinburgh, for the singularly cruel Murder of his Wife.

IN the account given of this man, there is a savage ferocity which has not before come under our notice: for, though we read in Captain Cook's and other accounts of circumnavigators, of their meeting with cannibals; and further, that even civilized men, by dire dint of the excruciating pains of hunger, have slain, and, with horrible compunction, eat one of their companions, to support life in the rest; yet, where shall we find, except in this instance, a savage in the land of civilization and of plenty, eat human flesh? Thus said, it no longer remains astonishingly horrible, that such a brute could force his wife into the fire, and burn her to death.

This atrocious brute in human form, was a native of Cramond, a small town near Edinburgh, where he received a school education. At a proper age he was placed with a butcher in that city, and, when his apprenticeship was expired, went to sea in a man of war, and continued in that station four years. The ship being paid off, Brown returned to Edinburgh, and married the widow of a butcher, who had left her a decent fortune.

Soon after this marriage, Brown commenced dealer in cattle, in which he met with such success, that, in the course of a few years, he became possessed of a considerable sum. His success, however, did not inspire him with sentiments of humanity. His temper was so bad, that he was shunned by

all serious people of his acquaintance: for he delighted in fomenting quarrels among his neighbours.

Taking to a habit of drinking, he seldom came home sober at night; and, his wife following his example, he used frequently to beat her for copying his own crime. This conduct rendered both parties obnoxious to their acquaintance; and the following story of Brown, which may be relied on as a fact, will incontestibly evidence the unfeeling brutality of his nature.

About a week after the execution of Norman Ross, already mentioned, for murder, Brown had been drinking with some company at Leith, till, in the height of their jollity, they boasted what extravagant actions they could perform. Brown swore that he would cut off a piece of flesh from the leg of the dead man, and eat it. His companions, drunk as they were, appeared shocked at the very idea: while Brown, to prove that he was in earnest, procured a ladder, which he carried to the gibbet, and, cutting off a piece of flesh from the leg of the deceased, brought it back, broiled, and ate it.

This circumstance was much talked of, but little credit was given to it by the inhabitants of Edinburgh, till Brown's companions gave the fullest testimony of its truth. It will be now proper that we recite the particulars of the shocking crime for which this offender forfeited his life.

After having been drinking at an ale-house in the Cannongate,* he went home about eleven at night, in a high degree of intoxication. His wife was also much in liquor; but, though equally criminal himself, he was so exasperated against her, that he struck her so violently, that she fell from her chair. The noise of her fall alarmed the neighbours; but, as frequent quarrels had happened between them, no immediate notice was taken of the affair.

In about fifteen minutes, the wife was heard to cry out, "Murder! help! fire! the rogue is murdering me! help, for Christ's sake!" The neighbours now apprehending real danger, knocked at the door; but no person being in the

* The Cannongate is one of the suburbs of the city of Edinburgh.

house but Brown and his wife, no admission was granted; and the woman was heard to groan most shockingly.†

A person looking through the key-hole, saw Brown holding his wife to the fire; on which, he was called on to open the door; but neglected to do so: the candle being extinguished, and the woman still continuing her cries, the door was at length forced open; and, when the neighbours went in, they beheld her a most shocking spectacle, laying half naked before the fire, and her flesh in part broiled. In the interim, Brown had got into bed, pretended to be asleep, and, when spoken to, appeared ignorant of the transaction. The woman, though so dreadfully burnt, retained her senses, accused her husband of the murder, and told in what manner it was perpetrated. She survived till the following morning, still continuing in the same tale, and then expired in the utmost agony.

Hereupon the murderer was seized, and, being lodged in the gaol of Edinburgh, was brought to trial, and capitally convicted.

After sentence, he was allowed six weeks to prepare himself for a future state, agreeable to the custom in Scotland.

He was visited by several divines of Edinburgh, but steadily persisted in the denial of his guilt, affirming that he was ignorant of his wife being burnt, till the door was broke open by the the neighbours.

Among others who visited the criminal was the Rev. Mr. Kinloch, an ancient minister, who urging him to confess his crime, received no other reply, than that, "if he was to die to-morrow, he would have a new suit of clothes, to appear decent at the gallows." Mr. Kinloch was so affected

---

† If a transaction of this kind had happened in London, the door would have been broken open in an instant, and the offender apprehended, before he could have completed his design.

At the late dreadful fire in Cordait-street, Hanover-street, London, where some firemen were killed, and others very dangerously wounded, the populace carried the latter to Mr. Heavysides, the surgeon, in George-street, very near to the spot of the calamity, who refused to admit them; whereupon they broke open the door, and insisted on his immediately dressing the wounded men.

by his declaration that he shed tears over the unhappy convict.

On the following day he was attended to the place of execution by the Rev. Dr. Brown; but to the last he denied having being guilty of the crime for which he suffered.

After execution, he was hung in chains; but the body was stolen from the gibbet, and thrown into a pond, where being found, it was exposed as before. In a few days, however, it was again stolen; and though a reward was offered for its discovery, no such discovery was made.

The singular Discovery of the Mail-robber.

DAVIS,

Executed and hung in chains near the place where he committed the Robbery.

THIS man was a tallow-chandler in Carnaby-market, London, where he had some time carried on business, with apparent credit; until his goods were distrained upon by his landlord, for rent. On taking an inventory thereof, a pistol was found in a drawer of a bureau, with some parts of bank notes, and several bills of exchange.

The Cirencester mail, having been robbed above two years ago, and though the customary reward had been in vain advertised for the discovery of the thief, a suspicion arose, under the circumstances that a man with such property by him, should suffer his goods to be seized. They were shewn to an officer of the Post-office, who suspected the notes to have been taken out of the mail; but lest he should prove innocent, and the charge be detrimental to him, a stratagem was used to carry him before a magistrate, to answer for some broils in which he had lately been involved. There he was charged with robbing the mail, but which he denied.

When upon the point of being discharged, a person

came to the office with a silver tankard, which had been advertised to have been purchased with one of the notes plundered from the mail, or Mr. Harding in the Mineries, and found concealed in Davis's House.

Mr. Harding was then sent for, who swore that the prisoner purchased it of him. Hereupon he confessed that he knew the person who had robbed the mail, and who, he said, then lay under sentence of death in Newgate.

To this falsehood he was answered, that the person he described, was sentenced only to transportation; upon which he turned pale and was agitated. He was thereupon committed to prison, and a warrant of detainer lodged against the convict whom he had accused.

He was removed by writ of habeas corpus, to Aylesbury, and on the 12th March, 1755, there brought to trial.

When asked in the usual form, whether he was guilty, or not guilty, to the charges laid in the indictment? he refused to plead till his irons were taken off. This the court consented to, and he then pleaded, "Not guilty;" but after a trial which occupied five hours, he was convicted.

On the third of April following, he was executed at Gerrard's Cross, in Buckinghamshire, the place where he committed the robbery, and there hung in chains.

JOHN BERRY, STEPHEN M'DANIEL, JAMES EGAN, JAMES SALMON, and ——BLEE,

A new Species of Murderers, and a most horrid Gang of Conspirators.

WE should have supposed that these pages had already disclosed the horrid crime of murder, under every hellish impulse of the mind; but, here we find the shedding of innocent blood carried on in a course of systematic (as I may say) wickedness.

When a nation has been long engaged in foreign wars, and then suddenly concludes a peace, what proved a national

happiness, is a sad misfortune to thousands of brave soldiers and seamen, who had long made

"The flinty couch of war
"Their thrice-driven bed of down."

Dismissed from the "trade of war," with no other reward than their arrears of wages, which ever is quickly dissipated, what are they do?—Where are they to turn to procure an honest livelihood? If ever the blessings of peace and reform should once more be granted to this impoverished and corrupt nation, it will let loose a far greater number of men, totally unprovided for, than any former war, and hence, as "hunger will break through stone walls," we depricate the mischief that will ensue.

The peace of the year 1749 produced a greatly increased calendar in each county-gaol in the kingdom; and to prevent the great increase of robbers, government deemed it expedient to offer additional rewards for apprehending those, who, in certain cases, had been guilty of violation of the law.

It will hardly be credited, that so diabolical a conspiracy could be engendered in the mind of man, as that of enticing innocent youths to commit a robbery, and then apprehending them, for the sake of that reward, thus making a very trade of human blood. But yet, this damnable plot was long successfully carried on, and many an innocent man fell a victim to the pretended violated laws of the country.

It will, by some, from the above comments on the effects of a peace, be naturally conjectured, that the conspirators were discharged soldiers or sailors. No, thank God, the worst offence we have to charge them with, and those, perhaps committed through the calls of distress, fall infinitely short of these men's crimes. In the hard hearts of THIEF-TAKERS alone, could such a deed be planned, and by none less callous to humanity, could such a murderous scheme to amass money, be carried into execution.

The head, or captain, as they dignified him, was Berry; a runner, or, as commonly denominated, a "Thief-taker," who lived at the bottom of what was then called George-

yard, at the bottom of Hatton-Garden, and Blee was his servant.

M'Danniel had kept a public-house in Holborn; Egan, a shoemaker, in Drury-lane; and Salmon, a leather-breeches-maker, in Drury-lane.

These villains, horrid to relate, conspired together, in accusing innocent people of crimes which took away life, for the reward so offered. Various were the diabolical plans they laid for this purpose.

At one time, they enticed two victims to join them in committing a high-way robbery, upon one of their own gang; a third was to purchase the stolen goods; and the other was to apprehend the intended victims, permitting his accomplice, who had been concerned in the robbery, to escape, and then to join the party robbed and the receiver in the prosecution. But if, through the information of the other two, the thief-taker, who proposed and assisted in the robbery, was apprehended, then, in order to preserve him, the prosecution was not supported.

These villains exhibited an accusation of robbery against two young men, named Newman and March. Upon their trial, they related the manner in which they had been seduced; but the evidence of the thief-takers was so strong, that they were convicted and suffered death.

A poor man named Tyler, was met by one of the gang, who said he would make him a present of a horse, for which he had no further occasion. The unfortunate man joyfully received the horse from his apparently generous benefactor; by whom he was advised to take the beast to an inn in Smithfield, there to be taken care of till he should determine in what manner to dispose of him. Before he could reach Smithfield, he was seized by Egan, who took him before the sitting alderman; and it being sworn that he had stolen the horse, he was committed to Newgate, and soon afterwards hanged. In the year 1753, they charged an innocent man named Woodland, with felony; and he was committed, and sentenced to suffer death: but he was so fortunate as to receive a pardon, on condition of transportation. The villains, however, claimed, and actually received the reward,

in consequence of their having prosecuted him to conviction.

Joshua Kidden, whom we shall hereafter mention, was the next who fell a sacrifice to their abominable artifices. It would be tedious to recount the particulars relating to the many people who suffered death through the false evidence of these atrocious villains; and especially as the several cases bear much similarity to each other. We shall now proceed to a narrative of the fact of which they were convicted.

The money obtained by the conviction of Kidden being nearly expended, they employed themselves in concerting new schemes of villainy for recruiting their finances. It was determined to employ a man named Blee, a fellow of abandoned principles, who had for some time acted as an assistant to Berry, in attending in the fields about Islington till he could decoy two idle boys to consent to join him in a robbery.

They all held a meeting in an arbour belonging to a public-house, the sign of Sir John Oldcastle, in the neighbourhood of Islington, where they appointed the time for committing the robbery, and that it should be near Deptford, on account of the inhabitants of Greenwich having advertised twenty pounds for the apprehending any highwayman or footpad, in addition to the reward allowed by parliament. Their wicked plan being settled, they separated; for, lest they should be suspected of holding an improper correspondence, they were particularly careful not to be seen together where there was a probability of their persons being known.

The time for holding the assizes being arrived, Mr. Cox, having a warrant for apprehending Berry, Salmon, M'Daniel, and Egan, went to Maidstone, having Blee in custody. Mr. Cox waited till the conclusion of the trial, but had no sooner heard the foreman of the jury pronounce the prisoners guilty, than he caused the four iniquitous accomplices to be taken into custody. They obstinately persisted in declaring themselves innocent; and even when confronted with Blee, denied having the least knowledge of him, but,

on the following day, they severally requested to be admitted evidences for the crown; in this neither of them was indulged, the evidence of Bliss being deemed sufficient for their conviction.

They were removed to London, in order for trial, as being accessaries before the fact. The jury were not able to determine whether the prisoners came within the description of the statutes fourth and fifth of Philip and Mary, or third and fourth of William and Mary, and therefore referred the case to the decision of the twelve judges.

The special verdict being brought to a hearing before the judges in the hall of Serjeant's-inn, council was heard on both sides, and it was unanimously determined that offences charged against the prisoners did not come within the meaning of the statutes above mentioned: but orders were given for indicting them for a conspiracy.

An indictment being found against them, they were again put to the bar at the Old Bailey, and the evidences exhibited against them on their former trial being recapitulated, the jury pronounced them guilty, and they were sentenced to be punished in the following manner: Berry and M'Daniel to stand on the pillory, once at the end of Hatton-garden in Holborn, and once at the end of King-street in Cheapside; Salmon and Egan to stand once in the middle of West-Smithfield, and the second time at the end of Fetter-lane, in Fleet-street; and all to be imprisoned in Newgate for the space of seven years; and upon the expiration of that time not to be discharged without finding sureties to be bound in the penalties of a thousand pounds each for their good behaviour for the seven following years.

March the 5th, 1756, M'Daniel and Berry were set on the pillory at the end of Hatton-garden, and were so severely treated by the populace, that their lives were supposed to be in danger.

Egan and Salmon were taken to Smithfield on Monday the eighth of the same month, amidst a surprising concourse of people, who no sooner saw the offenders exposed on the pillory, than they pelted them with stones, brick-bats, potatoes, dead dogs and cats, and other things. The constables

now interposed; but being soon overpowered, the offenders were left wholly to the mercy of an enraged mob. The blows they received occasioned their heads to swell to an enormous size; and by people hanging to the skirts of their cloaths they were nearly strangled. They had been on the pillory about half an hour, when a stone striking Egan on the head, he immediately expired.

This man's fate, however illegally he met death, will cause but little sorrow; yet, living under wholesome laws, we would not, even such a wretch as Egan, see punishment inflicted on, except through the sentence of a court.

The sheriffs, fearing that should the survivors be again exposed to the vengeance of an enraged people, they would share the fate of their companion in iniquity, the remainder of the sentence of pillory was, on that account, remitted; but the length of their sentence of imprisonment, added to the great amount of the sureties for their good behaviour after the expiration thereof, might have been considered tantamount to imprisonment for life; a fate well suited to such mischievous, hard-hearted, and unrelenting villains.

They however, soon died in Newgate, thus ridding the world of the bulk of this terrific gang.

WILLIAM CANNICOTT,

Executed at Tyburn, September 20, 1756, for the murder of his wife.

WILLIAM CANNICOTT was about forty years of age, and had been a livery servant from a youth, though his parents, who were substantial people, would fain have had him learn a trade.

When he was about twenty years old, he married Dorothy Tamlyn, a woman near forty years of age, with whom he had lived fellow servant; and soon after he set her up in a little haberdasher's shop, in Boswell-court. This shop she kept near ten years, and Cannicott being then servant to the

late Admiral Matthews, took a house for her in East-street, and furnished it to be let out into lodgings.

Till about three years ago, he says, they lived peaceably, if not happily, together; but it then happened, that in his absence, and without his knowledge, she sold two suits of his best cloaths, though she had no reasonable pretence or provocation; for he constantly gave her all his money, and she received, without any account, the profits that arose from the house. Cannicott was naturally passionate, and coming in haste one day to put on a suit of these cloaths upon a particular occasion, he was so exasperated to find they had been sold by his wife, that he swore he would never come home to her any more.

It is probable, that this incident only gave colour to break a connection which he had no inclination to continue; for he kept the resolution which he had declared in his passion, after that passion had subsided; and when he was next out of place, which happened soon afterwards, he took himself a lodging in a distant part of the town, instead of going home to his wife, though he still continued to give her his money.

In this new neighbourhood he was of course considered as a single man; a mistake that he was rather desirous to countenance than correct, because he knew that as a single man he was more likely to get into place than as married; and indeed he was soon after hired to a gentleman in Cavendish-square, who declared that he would not hire a married man; so that he was from that time under a kind of necessity to deny that he had a wife. After the first deviation from truth a man is almost necessarily, though insensibly, led to deviate farther and farther from the strait path at every step. As the women were less upon their guard against him, he was encouraged to indulge himself in the pleasure of such addresses as would not otherwise have been permitted; and thus engagements are often brought on which were never formally designed, and connections are gradually strengthened merely because the difficulty of breaking them gradually increases. Among Cannicott's fellow servants there was a young woman that waited upon his master's daughter, to whom he found a secret pleasure in recom-

mending himself by many little acts of kindness, with which he saw she was pleased, and which he therefore repeated with greater assiduity and delight, though he declares he had then no design to seduce her, either as a mistress or a wife; yet his regard for her grew every day more tender as he became more acquainted with her. He loved her, he says, not only for her person but for her mind, which was continually improved by the free conversation of her amiable lady. Still, however, he avoided every thing that had a direct tendency to make him be regarded as a lover; but here happened two incidents, which joining with his inclinations, and the facility with which he saw it might be gratified, overbore all his resolutions. As love is always vigilant and suspicious, he discovered that his master had a design upon her virtue, and that at the same time she was addressed by a young man, who would have married her, and whom he thought she would consent to marry, if he did not profit of the influence he had over her by soliciting her for himself. In this situation he determined to gain her if it was possible, let the consequence be what it would. From this time his courtship commenced, and the girl sincerely believing he had no other connection, consented to have him. When this was agreed he resolved to leave his place, because the girl would not consent to conceal her marriage from her lady, nor would her lady part with her upon that account, and because his master would notwithstanding think it a sufficient reason to part with him. In pursuance of this scheme he hired himself to the Earl of Darnly, and on the third of June 1754, he married his new wife at Marybone chapel.

He went into Lord Darnly's place the same day, and his wife continued in her's a twelvemonth after they were married, and might have continued there till now, if her master had not pursued his design with more importunity than before, notwithstanding the declaration of her marriage, which, upon thataccount, as well as others, she had determined to make as soon as it should have taken place. As these solicitations made her very uneasy, she complained of them to her husband, and he advised her to give warning.

She, immediately followed his counsel, but staid five months longer to oblige her lady, who was very desirous she should go with her to Bath. When they came back, and her master found that she was determined to go, and that another maid had been engaged in her stead, he was so enraged at his disappointment, that he would scarce suffer her to stay long enough in the house to put her cloaths together. When she was come away Cannicott hired a lodging for her as near him as he could, that he might spend every leisure minute in her company; and he perceived, he says, with unspeakable pleasure, an excessive fondness in her which increased his own; and he believes it is impossible for any two persons to be more happy in each other than they were, except when his fears anticipated her discovery of his former marriage.

This event so much dreaded, and so carefully guarded against, in a short time put an end to their felicity, and made the wife, who was deserted, yet more wretched than before. Such is the constant and the known effect of that officious malignity, which is still curious to discover, and zealous to publish breaches of the matrimonial contract; yet it is still suffered by a common confederacy in the guilt, to escape not only infamy but censure, under the mask of integrity and friendship.

One Hobson, a coach-man in Lord Darnly's family, knew Cannicott when he lived in another place, and knew also his first wife. It happened, that the wife of this Hobson had become acquainted with some person in the house where Cannicott had taken a lodging for his second wife, and thus discovered the secret. His second wife, however, she did not know where to find, for she had removed into the country when Cannicott went out of town with his Lord, and was not yet returned; but word was immediately sent to his wife, and she took every opportunity to haunt and reproach her husband with his new connection. This, he says, made him extremely wretched, not only because it was irksome in itself, but because it kept him in continual dread and solicitude, lest they should find out his favourite, and interrupt her peace, as they had interrupted his. As his

As soon as he saw she was dead, his passion subsided in a moment, and he was so struck with the horror of what he had done, that he fell down in a swoon, though he cannot tell how long he continued in it; when he came to himself he began to think how he might conceal the fact; he stripped her, and scattered her cloaths, which he cut to pieces, in different places as he went along.

About ten o'clock he got home extremely wet, and immediately retiring to the place where he cleaned his glasses, he washed the blood from the ruffles and sleeves of his shirt, and putting it into the foul cloaths bag, went to bed. The next morning, his lordship being out of town, he went out and bought a new pair of scissars, having left the others in the field near the body, and he sold the ring and buckles, which he brought away; he did not return home till night, and was then told by his fellow servants, that Justice Fielding had sent for him upon a suspicion of murder, and advised, if he was guilty, not to come in; but he insisted upon his innocence, and when Mr. Welch came soon after, he was denied. Next morning, however, he went with the Butler, to Mr. Barnes, the high constable, in order, as he said, to clear himself.

He was examined by the justices, and though many circumstances appeared against him, yet the first day he confessed nothing; but the next day, finding that they had found out his second wife, and confined her upon suspicion that she had been accessary to the fact, he immediately accused himself, that she might be discharged; and having fully disclosed the whole affair, he pleaded guilty at his trial, and died with great penitence and resignation.

THEODORE GARDELLE,

Executed in the Hay-market, April 4, 1761, for murder.

THIS was a murder which also considerably engaged the public mind. Though in the commission of the act itself,

there may be some extenuation afforded to the unhappy man; yet the means he took to conceal it, are attended with circumstances horrible to relate. We have to lament that the woman might not have met her death at his hands, had she allotted some discretion to the limits of her tongue —a weapon, we may call it, often goading a man to phrenzy of the mind, ending in horror. How earnestly would we entreat the weaker vessel, not to run rashly upon the stronger; or, in other words, we would pray of females, to let their tongues move in unison with the comfort which, by nature, they were formed to accord to man.

Theodore Gardelle was a foreigner, a man of education and talents in his profession, the fine art of painting. That he was not a man of a bad disposition, or given to irregularities, appears from Mrs. King's receiving him back as an inmate, after he had once quitted her lodgings.

He was born at Geneva, a city which is famed for giving birth to great men, in both the arts and sciences. He chose the miniature style of painting, and having acquired its first rudiments, went to Paris, where he made great proficiency in the art. He then returned to his native place, and practised his profession for some years, with credit and emolument; but, it appears, unhappy in his domestic concerns, he repaired to London, and took lodgings at Mrs. King's, in Leicester-Fields, in the year 1760.

Sometime afterwards, for the benefit of puter air, he removed to Knightsbridge, but finding that place too far from his business, he returned to his former residence, where he was pursuing his business until the fatal cause arose, which brought him to an ignominious death.

The particulars of this shocking transaction, we have collected, partly from evidence adduced on his trial, and partly from the repentant confession of the malefactor.

On Thursday the 19th of February, 1761, in the morning, the maid got up about seven o'clock and opened the fore parlour windows. There is a fore parlour and a back parlour, both have a door into the passage from the street door, and there is also a door that goes out of one into the other: the back parlour was Mrs. King's bed-chamber, and

the door which entered it from the passage was secured on the inside by a drop bolt, and could not be opened on the outside when locked, though the drop-bolt was not down, because on the outside there was no key-hole. The door into the fore parlour was also secured on the inside by Mrs. King when she went to bed, and the door of the fore parlour into the passage was left open; when the maid had entered the fore parlour by this door, and opened the windows, she went to the passage door of the back parlour where Mrs. King was in bed, and knocked, in order to get the key of the street-door, which Mrs. King took at night into her room. Mrs. King drew the bolt, and the maid went in; she took the key of the street-door which she saw lie upon the table by a looking-glass; her mistress then shut the passage door and dropped the bolt, and ordered the maid to open the door that communicated with the fore parlour, which she did, and went out; she then kindled the fire in the fore parlour that it might be ready when her mistress arose, and about eight o'clock went up into Gardelle's room, where she found him in a red and green night gown at work. He gave her two letters, a snuff-box, and a guinea, and desired her to deliver the letters, one of which was directed to one Mozier in the Hay-market, and the other to a person who kept a snuff-shop at the next door, and to bring him from thence a penny-worth of snuff.

The girl took the messages, and went again to her mistress, telling her what Gardelle had desired her to do, to which her mistress replied, "Nanny, you can't go, for here is nobody to answer at the street door;" the girl being willing to oblige Gardelle, or being for some reason desirous to go out, answered, "that Mr. Gardelle would come down and sit in the parlour till she came back." She then went again to Gardelle, and told him what objection her mistress had made, and what she had said to remove it. Gardelle then said he would come down, as he had proposed, and he did come down accordingly.

The girl immediately went on his errand, and left him in the parlour, shutting the street door after her, and taking the key to let herself in when she came back.

Immediately after the girl was gone out, Mrs. King, hearing the tread of somebody in the parlour, called out, "Who is there?" and at the same time opened her chamber door. Gardelle was at a table, very near the door, having just then taken up a book that lay upon it, which happened to be a French grammar; he had some time before drawn Mrs. King's picture, which she wanted to have made very handsome, and had teazed him so much about it, that the effect was just contrary. It happened unfortunately that the first thing she said to him, when she saw it was he whom she had heard walking about in the room, was something reproachful about this picture: Gardelle was provoked at the insult; and, as he spoke English very imperfectly, he, for want of a less improper expression, told her, with some warmth, "That she was an impertinent woman." This threw her into a transport of rage, and she gave him a violent blow with her fist on the breast, so violent, that he says he could not have thought such a blow could have been given by a woman; as soon as the blow was struck, she drew a little back, and at the same instant, he says, he laid his hand on her shoulder and pushed her from him, rather in contempt than anger, or with a design to hurt her; but her foot happening to catch in the floor-cloth, she fell backwards, and her head came with great force against the corner of the bedstead; the blood immediately gushed from her mouth, not in a continued stream, but as if by different strokes of a pump; he instantly ran to her and stooped to raise her, expressing his concern at the accident; but she pushed him away, and threatened, though in a feeble and interrupted voice, to punish him for what he had done; he was, he says, terrified exceedingly at the thought of being condemned for a criminal act upon her accusation, and again attempted to assist her by raising her up, as the blood still gushed from her mouth in great quantities; but she still exerted all her strength to keep him off, and still cried out, mixing threats with her screams; he then seized an ivory comb with a sharp taper point continued from the back, for adjusting the curls of her hair, which lay upon her toilet, and threatened her in his turn to prevent her crying out;

but she still continued to cry out, though with a voice still fainter and fainter, he struck her with this instrument, probably in the throat, upon which the blood flowed from her mouth in yet greater quantities, and her voice was quite stopped: he then drew the bed-clothes over her, to prevent her blood from spreading on the floor, and to hide her from his sight; he stood, he says, some time motionless by her, and then fell down by her side in a swoon. When he came to himself, he perceived the maid was come in, he therefore went out of the room without examining the body to see if the unhappy wretch was quite dead, and his confusion was then so great, that he staggered against the wainscot, and hit his head, so as to raise a bump over his eye. As no person was in the house but the murdered and the murderer while the fact was committed, nothing can be known about it but from Gardelle's own account; the circumstances related above, contain the sense of what he related both in his defence, and in the account which he drew up in French to leave behind him, taken together as far as they are consistent; for there are in both several inconsistencies and absurdities, which give reason to suspect they are not true.

But however that be, all was quiet when the maid returned, which she says, was in a quarter of an hour. She went first into the parlour where Gardelle had promised to wait till she came back, and saw nobody. She had paid three shillings and nine-pence out of the guinea at the snuff-shop, where she delivered one of the letters; to the other she had no answer; and she laid the change and the snuff-box with the snuff she had fetched in it upon the table; then she went up into Gardelle's room and found nobody, and by turns she went into every room in the house, except her mistress's chamber, whither she never went, but when she was called, and found nobody. She then made some water boil in the kitchen, made a bit of toast, and sat down to breakfast. In a short time she heard somebody walk over head in the parlour, or passage, and go up stairs, but did not go to see who it was. When she had breakfasted she went and stirred up the fire in the parlour against her mistress got up, and perceived that the snuff and change

had been taken from the table; she then went up stairs again to Gardelle's room, to clean and set it to rights as she used to do, and it was now between ten and eleven o'clock. Soon after, Gardelle came down from the garret into his bed-chamber, which somewhat surprised her, as he could have no business that she knew of in the garret. When she first saw him, which was about an hour afterwards, she says, he looked confounded, and blushed exceedingly, and she perceived the bump over his eye, which had then a black patch upon it as big as a shilling; he had also changed his dress, and had written another letter, with which he sent her into Great Suffolk-street, and ordered her to wait for an answer; she went directly, and when she returned, which was in a quarter of an hour, she found him sitting in the parlour, and told him the gentleman would be there in the evening. He then told her that a gentleman had been in the room with her mistress, and that she was gone out with him in a hackney coach. It appears, by this, that Gardelle knew the maid was acquainted with her mistress's character. The maid, however, though she might have believed this story at another time, could not believe it now; she was not absent above a quarter of an hour: she had left her mistress in bed, and the time would not have permitted her receiving a gentleman there, her being dressed, a coach being procured, and her having gone out in it; besides, when she came back, she knew Gardelle was in her chamber. This gave her some suspicion, but it was nothing worse than that Gardelle and her mistress had been in bed together. She went, however, and looked at the door of the chamber, which opened into the parlour, and which she had opened by her mistress's order, and found it again locked. About one o'clock Mr. Wright's servant, Thomas Pelsey, came and told the maid at the door that the beds must be got ready, because his master intended to come thither in the evening, but did not go in. The maid still wondered that her mistress did not rise; and supposed that, knowing she came in from her errand while Gardelle was yet in her chamber, she was ashamed to see her. Gardelle, in the mean time, was often up and down stairs; and about

three o'clock he sent her with a letter to one Broshet, at the Eagle and Pearl in Suffolk-street. As he knew that it would be extremely difficult to conceal the murder, if the maid continued in the house, he determined that he would, if possible, discharge her: but as the girl could not write, and as he was not sufficiently acquainted with our language to draw a proper receipt, he requested Mr. Broshet, in this letter, to write a receipt for him, and get the maid to sign it, directing her to deliver it to him when he paid her; he did not, however, acquaint her with his design. When Mr. Broshet had read the letter, he asked her if she knew that Mr. Gardelle was to discharge her; she said no. Why, says he, Mrs. King is gone out, and has given Mr. Gardelle orders to discharge you; for she is to bring a woman home with her: at this the girl was surprised, and smiled, telling Broshet, that she knew her mistress was at home. The girl was now confirmed in her first thought, that her mistress was ashamed to see her again; and thus she accounted for the manner of her dismission. She returned between three and four to Gardelle, whom she found sitting in the parlour with a gentleman whose name she did not know: she continued in the house till between six and seven o'clock in the evening, and then Gardelle paid her six shillings for a fortnight and two days wages, and gave her five or six shillings over, upon which she delivered him the receipt that Broshet had written, took her box and went away. As she was going out, Mr. Wright's servant came again to the door, and she told him that she was discharged, and going away; that her mistress had been all day in her bed-room, without either victuals or drink, and that if he stayed a little after she was gone, he might see her come out: the man, however, could not stay, and Gardelle, about seven o'clock, was thus left alone in the house.

The first thing he did was to go into the chamber to the body, which, upon examination he found quite dead; he therefore took off the blankets and sheets with which he had covered it, stripped off the shift, and laid the body quite naked upon the bed; before this, he said, his linen was not stained; but it was much stained by his removing

the body. He then took the two blankets, the sheets, the coverlet, and one of the curtains, and put them into the water-tub in the back wash-house, to soak; they being all much stained with blood; her shift he carried up stairs, and putting it in a bag, concealed it under his bed; his own shirt, now bloody, he pulled off, and locked it up in a drawer of his bureau.

When all this was done, he went and sat down in the parlour, and soon after, it being about nine o'clock, Mr. Wright's servant came in without his master, who had changed his mind, and was gone to a gentleman's house in Castle-street. He went up into his room, the garret, and sat there till about eleven o'clock: then he came down, and finding Gardelle still in the parlour, he asked if Mrs. King was come home, and who must sit up for her: Gardelle said she was not come home, but that he would sit up for her.

In the morning, Friday, when Pelsey came down stairs, he again asked if Mrs. King was come home, and Gardelle told him that she had been at home, but was gone again. He then asked how he came by the hurt on his eye; and he said he got it by cutting some wood to light the fire in the morning. Pelsey then went about his master's business, and at night was again let in by Gardelle, who, upon being asked, said he would sit up for Mrs King that night also.

In the morning, Saturday, Pelsey inquired again after Mrs. King; and Gardelle, though he had professed to sit up for her but the night before, now told him she was gone to Bath or Bristol; yet, strange as it may seem, no suspicions of murder appear yet to have been conceived.

On Saturday, Mozier, an acquaintance of Gardelle's, who had been also intimate with Mrs. King, and had spent the evening with her the Wednesday before the murder, came by appointment about two or three o'clock, having promised to go with her that evening to the opera. He was let in by Gardelle, who told him that Mrs. King was gone to Bath or Bristol, as he had told Pelsey. This man, and another of Gardelle's acquaintance, observing him to be chagrined and dispirited, seem to have imagined that Mrs.

King's absence was the cause of it, and that if they could get him another girl they should cure him: they were therefore kind enough to procure for him on this occasion; and having picked up a prostitute in the Hay-market, they brought her that very Saturday to Gardelle at Mrs. King's. The worthy, whose name is not known, told her Mrs. King was gone into the country, and had discharged her servant. Gardelle made an apology for the confusion in which the house appeared, and Mozier, or Musard, as he is sometimes called, asked her if she would take care of the house; she readily consented; and Gardelle acquiescing, they left her with him. He asked her what her business was; she said she worked plain-work; he then told her he had some shirts to mend, and that he would satisfy her for her trouble.

All this while the body continued as he had left it on Thursday night, nor had he once been into the room since that time. But this night the woman and Pelsey being in bed, he first conceived a design of concealing or destroying the dead body by parts, and went down to put it in execution; but the woman, whose name is Sarah Walker, getting out of bed and following him, he returned up stairs, and went to bed with her. In the morning, Sunday, he arose between seven and eight, and left Walker in bed, saying, it was too soon for her to rise; she fell asleep, and slept till ten; it is probable that in the mean time he was employed on the body, for when she came down between ten and eleven, he was but beginning to light the parlour fire. He had spoke to her the night before to get him a chair-woman, and he was in so much confusion that he did not ask her to stay to breakfast; she went out therefore and hired one Pritchard as a chair-woman, at one shilling a day, victuals and drink: in the afternoon she brought Pritchard to the house, and found with Gardelle two or three men and two women: Gardelle went up with her and stayed by her while she made his bed, then the company all went out together. The chair-woman kept house, and about ten o'clock they returned and supped in Gardelle's room. She was then dismissed for the night, and ordered to come the next morning at eight. The next morning, Monday, the chair-

woman was ordered to tell Pelsey the footman, that Walker was a relation of Mrs. King's, who was come to be in the house till Mrs. King returned; but Pelsey knew that she and Gardelle had but one bed, for when he came down on Monday morning, Gardelle's chamber-door stood open, and looking in, he saw some of her cloaths. On Monday night Pelsey again enquired after Mrs. King, and Gardelle told him she was at Bath or Bristol, he knew not where; he always differed at times in his account of her, yet no suspicion of murder was yet entertained. On Tuesday morning, Pelsey, who was going up to his master's room, smelt an offensive smell, and asked Gardelle, who was shoving up the sash of the window on the stair-case, what it was: Gardelle replied, somebody had put a bone in the fire; the truth however was, that while Walker was employed in mending and making some linen in the parlour, he had been burning some of Mrs. King's bones in the garret. At night Pelsey renewed his enquiries after Mrs. King, and Gardelle answered with a seeming impatience, "Me know not of Mrs. King, she give me a great deal of trouble, but me shall hear of her Wednesday or Thursday;" yet he still talked of sitting up for her, and all this while nobody seems to have suspected a murder.

On Tuesday night he told Mrs. Walker he would sit up till Mrs. King came home, though he had before told her she was out of town, and desired her to go to bed, to which she consented; as soon as she was in bed, he renewed his horrid employment of cutting the body to pieces, and disposing of it in different places; the bowels he threw down the necessary, and the flesh of the body and limbs cut to pieces, he scattered about in the cockloft, where he supposed they would dry and perish without putrefaction; about two o'clock in the morning, however, he was interrupted, for Walker having waked and not finding him, she went down stairs, and found him standing upon the stairs; he then, at her solicitation, went up with her to bed.

Wednesday passed like the preceding days, and on Thursday he told his female companion, that he expected Mrs. King home in the evening, and therefore desired that

she would provide herself a lodging, giving her, at the same time, two of Mrs. King's shifts, and being thus dismissed, she went away.

Pritchard, the chair-woman, still continued in her office. The water having failed in the cistern on the Tuesday, she had recourse to that in the water-tub in the back-kitchen; upon pulling out the spiggot a little water run out, but, as there appeared to be more in, she got upon a ledge, and putting her hand in she felt something soft; she then fetched a poker, and pressing down the contents of the tub, she got water in a pail. This circumstance she told Pelsey, and they agreed the first opportunity to see what the things in the water-tub were; yet so languid was their curiosity, and so careless were they of the event, that it was Thursday before this tub was examined: they found in it the blankets, sheets, and coverlet that Gardelle had put in it to soak: after spreading, shaking, and looking at them, they put them again into the tub; and the next morning when Pelsey came down, he saw the curtain hanging on the banisters of the kitchen stairs; upon looking down, he saw Gardelle just come out at the wash-house door, where the tub stood. When Pritchard the chair-woman came, he asked her if she had been taking the curtain out of the tub, and she said, no; she then went and looked in the tub, and found the sheets had been wrung out. Upon this, the first step was taken towards inquiring after the unhappy woman, who had now laid dead more than a week in the house. Pelsey found out the maid whom Gardelle had dismissed, and asked her if she had put any bed-cloaths into the water; she said, no, and seemed frighted; Pelsey was then also alarmed, and told his master.

These particulars also came to the knowledge of Mr. Barron, an apothecary in the neighbourhood, who went the same day to Mrs. King's house, and enquired of Gardelle where she was. He trembled, and told him with great confusion that she was gone to Bath. The next day therefore, Saturday, he carried the maid before Mr. Fielding, the justice, to make her deposition, and obtained a warrant to take Gardelle into custody. When the warrant was obtained, Mr. Barron, with the constable, and some others, went to

the house, where they found Gardelle, and charged him with the murder; he denied it, but soon after dropped down in a swoon. When he recovered, they demanded the key of Mrs. King's chamber; but he said she had got it with her in the country; the constable therefore got in at the window, and opened the door that communicated with the parlour, and they all went in. They found upon the bed a pair of blankets wet, and a pair of sheets that appeared not to have been lain in; and the curtain also which Pelsey and the chair-woman had seen first in the water-tub, and then on the banisters, was found put up in its place wet. Upon taking off the cloaths, the bed appeared bloody, the blankets also were bloody, and marks of blood appeared in other places; having taken his keys, they went up into his room, where they found the bloody shirt and shift.

The prisoner, with all these tokens of his guilt, was then carried before Fielding, and, though he stifly denied the fact, was committed. On the Monday, a carpenter and bricklayer were sent to search the house for the body, and Mr. Barron went with them. In the necessary they found what he calls the contents of the bowels of a human body, but what were certainly the bowels themselves; and in the cock-loft they found the parts of generation, one of the breasts, some other muscular parts, and some bones. They perceived also that there had been a fire in the garret, and some fragments of bones, half consumed, were found in the chimney, so large as to be known to be human. On the Thursday before, he had carried an oval chip-box to one Perronneau, a painter in enamel, who had employed him in copying, and pretending it contained colours of great value, desired him to keep it, saying, he was uneasy to leave it at Mrs. King's while she was absent at Bath. Perroneau, when he heard that Gardelle was taken up, opened the box, and found in it a gold watch and chain, a pair of bracelets, and a pair of ear-rings, which were known to be Mrs. Kings. To this force of evidence Gardelle at length gave way, and confessed the fact, but signed no confession. He was sent to New Prison, where he attempted to destroy himself by swallowing some opium, which he had kept several years by

him as a remedy for the tooth-ache. He took at one dose 40 grains, which was so far from answering his purpose, that it did not procure him sleep; though he declared he had not slept once since the commission of the fact, nor did he sleep for more than a fortnight after this time. When he found the opium did not produce the effect he desired, he swallowed half-pence to the number of twelve; but neither did these bring on any fatal symptom, whatever pain or disorders they might cause; which is remarkable, because verdigrese, the solution of copper, is a very powerful and active poison, and the contents of the stomach would act as a dissolvent upon them.

On the 2d of March he was brought to Newgate, and diligently watched, to prevent any further attempts upon his life. He shewed strong marks of penitence and contrition, and behaved with great humility, openness, and courtesy to those who visited him.

On Thursday the 2d of April, he was tried at the Old Bailey; and in his defence, he insisted only that he had no malice to the deceased, and that her death was the consequence of the fall. He was convicted, and sentenced to be executed on Saturday the 4th. The account which he wrote in prison, and which is mentioned in this narrative, is dated the 28th of March, though he did not communicate it till after his trial. The night after his condemnation his behaviour was extravagant and outrageous; yet the next morning he was composed and quiet, and said he had slept three or four hours in the night. When he was asked why he did not make his escape, he answered, that he feared some innocent person might then suffer in his stead. He declared he had no design to rob Mrs. King, but that he removed some of the things merely to give credit to the story of her journey to Bath; he declared too, that he never had any sentiments of love or jealousy with respect to Mrs. King; though it is evident, his friends, who prescribed for his lowness of spirits, supposed that he had.

He affirmed, that he regarded the woman they brought him with horror, but that he did not dare to refuse her, lest it should produce new suspicions with respect to the cause of

his uneasiness. It is, however, certain, that he felt the ill effects of her company in more ways than one to his last hour.

He was executed amidst the shouts and hisses of an indignant populace in the Haymarket, near Panton-street, to which he was led by Mrs. King's house, where the cart made a stop, and at which he just gave a look. His body was hanged in chains, upon Hounslow-heath.

One reflection, upon reading this dreadful narrative, will probably rise in the mind of the attentive reader; the advantages of virtue with respect to our social connections, and the interest that others take in what befals us. It does not appear that, during all the time Mrs. King was missing, she was enquired after by one relation or friend; the murder was discovered by strangers, almost without solicitude or inquiry; the murderer was secured by strangers, and by strangers the prosecution against him was carried on.

But who is there of honest reputation, however poor, that could be missing a day, without becoming the subject of many interesting inquiries, without exciting solicitude and fears, that would have had no rest till the truth had been discovered, and the injury, if any, had been avenged?

PETER M'KINLIE, GEORGE GIDLEY, ANDREW ZEKERMAN, and RICHARD St. QUINTIN,

(A Gang of most inhuman piratical Murderers.)

Executed and hung in chains, near Dublin, December 19, 1765.

BEFORE we enter upon the bloody deeds of these inhuman monsters, we shall present our readers with an account of the cruel fortune of captain John Glass, who had fought against the enemies of his country, and after undergoing from them a long series of cruel treatment, at length fell a victim to the abominable murder of the pirates above-named.

This unfortunate man was the son of the Reverend Mr John Glass, a minister of the church of Scotland, who in several publications zealously opposed the practice of religion according to particular forms. The adherents to his religious opinions obtained the appellation of Glassites: and his doctrines being first propagated in England by Mr. Sandeman, his son-in-law, those who adopted them were called Sandemanians.

At a very early period young Mr. Glass afforded strong proofs of an acute and penetrating understanding, greatly beyond what could be reasonably expected at his tender years.

After the fine genius of this promising youth had received some cultivation at a respectable grammar-school, he was removed to the university, where he attained to a great proficiency in the sciences.

Having taken up the degree of Master of Arts, he applied himself to the study of physic and surgery, in which he made a rapid progress. He afterwards engaged as a surgeon on board a trading vessel bound to the coast of Guinea; and in that capacity made several voyages to America.

His superior qualifications gained him a distinguished place in the esteem of several capital merchants, who entrusted to him the command of a vessel in the Guinea trade; and his conduct proved highly to the advantage of his owners, and equally honourable to himself.

When the war against France was declared, captain Glass, upon a minute review of his affairs, found himself in possession of a very considerable sum, a great part of which he determined to venture on board a privateer.

He caused a vessel to be fitted out with all possible expedition, and took the command on himself. A mutiny happened among the sailors when they had been on board about three days; and news of this disagreeable circumstance being communicated to the captain, he hastened to the vessel, and going upon deck, dared to single combat, any man who should presume to dispute his authority; but his challenge was declined; and by coolly representing the dangerous consequences that might result from such unjusti-

liable proceedings, exhorting them to an exact observance of necessary discipline, and assuring them that his utmost endeavours should be exerted to procure them satisfaction in every particular, the harmony and good understanding of his crew were restored; and in a short time after the vessel proceeded on her voyage.

In about ten days they made prize of a ship, richly laden, belonging to France, which they carried into a port in the West Indies.

They soon after engaged two ships of war, but after an obstinate contest, were compelled to submit to the superior power of the enemy; the captain, however, did not strike his flag till he had received a dangerous wound on the shoulder, and the greatest part of his men were slain. He was put into one of the French prisons, where he experienced very severe treatment.

An exchange of prisoners taking place, captain Glass was no sooner restored to freedom, than he resolved to make a reserve of two thousand pounds, and to venture all the rest that remained of his fortune on board a privateer.

He had sailed in his second vessel but a short time, when he was again conquered by the enemy, and conveyed to a French prison.

Captain Glass, on his return to England, was esteemed one of the most expert, judicious, and intrepid seamen in the British navy.

The war being concluded, he conceived a design of sailing in search of discoveries; and, in pursuance of this plan, he purchased a vessel adapted to his purpose, and having carefully made every necessary preparation for the prosecution of his design, directed his course towards the coast of Africa.

Between the river Senegal and Cape de Verd, he discovered a commodious harbour; from which circumstance he entertained the reasonable expectation that very great commercial advantages would be derived.

The captain now returned to England, and communicated his discovery to administration, who granted him an exclusive trade to the harbour, for the space of twenty years.

That he might be enabled to pursue his project with the greater advantage, he engaged in partnership with two or three gentlemen of fortune; and a vessel, furnished with all necessary articles, being prepared, he sailed for the harbour, where he arrived without meeting with any occurrences worthy of recording.

He sent one of his men on shore, with orders for offering proposals for a commercial intercourse with the natives; but the messenger had no sooner landed, than he was cruelly murdered by the Barbarians.

The captain now suggested a plan for informing the king of the country, that by opening a trade his subjects would derive great advantages.

The king affected the utmost willingness to comply with his proposals; but, under the appearance of friendship, endeavoured to effect his destruction. Having failed in other treacherous schemes, he sent poisoned provisions to captain Glass, who prudently made experiments upon them, and by that means preserved his life.

Being in great distress for the necessaries of life, captain Glass and three of his men ventured to sea in an open boat, intending to direct their course towards the Canaries, for the purpose of purchasing provisions.

The natives being apprized of their departure, attempted to plunder the ship; but they were effectually repulsed, by the remaining part of the crew.

The men who continued in the vessel being extremely distressed, judging that it would be dangerous to remain longer in the harbour, and despairing of their captain's return so early as was expected, they sailed for England, where they arrived, after encountering a variety of dangers, difficulties, and distresses.

Captain Glass arrived at one of the Canary Islands, and presented a petition to the governor, supplicating permission to purchase provisions; but the inhuman Spaniard caused him to be apprehended as a spy, and ordered him to be confined in a noisome dungeon, where he was allowed no other sustenance than bread and water, and to aggravate

his distress, the barbarous tyrant denied him the use of pen, ink, and paper.

In this unhappy situation the captain remained upwards of six months. At length he climbed up to the iron bars that were across the space for admitting light to the dungeon, and perceived an English vessel in the harbour. The sight of a vessel belonging to his native country inspired him with hopes of regaining his liberty: but his despair was renewed upon considering the apparent impossibility of making his miserable fate known to those who would be inclined to afford him relief.

At length he adopted the following expedient; by means of a piece of charcoal he wrote his name and some words intimating his distress upon a biscuit, which he fortunately dropped from the grate of the dungeon at the moment when an English sailor was passing beneath. The man, observing the captain's name upon the biscuit, carried it to his commander, who immediately made application to the governor for the relief of his countryman. In consequence of this humane intercession, the cruel and tyrannical Spaniard subjected the petitioner to severity of treatment equal to that sustained by captain Glass.

A ship that soon afterwards sailed for England, conveyed news to our ministry of the arbitrary and barbarous conduct of the governor; and speedy application being made to the king of Spain, he issued an order for the release of the two captains.

About the time that captain Glass recovered his freedom, his wife, and daughter, a young lady about twelve years old, remarkable for her beauty and fine accomplishments, arrived at the Canaries on board a ship from London; and their first interview with him afforded a scene truly affecting.

Captain Glass now embarked, with his wife and daughter, on board a ship bound to London, under the command of captain Cockeran.

While the ship lay at the Canaries, a plot was concerted between Peter M'Kinlie the boatswain, a native of Ireland, George Gidley, the cook, born in the west of Yorkshire,

Richard St. Quintin a native of the same country, and Andrew Zekerman a dutchman, far murdering all the other persons on board, and seizing the treasure, which, including what captain Glass had shipped in behalf of himself and his partners, amounted to an hundred thousand pounds in dollars.

The villains made three attempts on different nights to carry their horrid plan into execution, but were prevented through the circumspection of their commander. The conspirators were appointed to the night-watch on the thirteenth of November, when the ship had reached the British Channel; and about midnight, the captain going upon the quarter-deck to see that all things were disposed in proper order, he, upon his return, was seized by the boatswain, who held him while Gidley struck him with an iron bar and fractured his skull, after which they threw him into the sea. Two of the seamen, who were not concerned in the conspiracy, hearing the captain's groans, came upon deck, and were immediately murdered and thrown overboard.

Captain Glass being alarmed, went up the gang-way, and judging that a mutiny had happened, returned to fetch his sword. M'Kinlie, guessing his design, followed him down the steps leading to the cabin, and waited in the dark till the captain returned with a drawn sword in his hand, when getting unperceived behind him, he seized both his arms, and then called to his accomplices to murder him. Captain Glass, being a very powerful man, had nearly disengaged himself from the ruffian, when Zekerman came up, whom the captain wounded in the arm; but before he could recover his sword he was overpowered, the other villains soon joining their associates. The unhappy man was no sooner disarmed, than he was many times run through the body: after which he was thrown overboard.

Mrs. Glass and her daughter now came on deck, and falling on their knees supplicated for mercy; but they found the villains utterly destitute of the tender feelings of humanity: and Zekerman telling them to prepare for death, they embraced each other in a most affectionate manner, and

were then forced from each other's arms and thrown into the sea.

Having put all the crew to death, excepting a boy who had attended captain Glass, and another boy who was an apprentice on board the ship, the murderers steered towards the Irish coast; and on the third of December found themselves within ten leagues of the harbour of Ross. They hoisted out the long-boat, and put into it dollars to the amount of two tons; and, after knocking out the windows of the ballast-ports, rowed towards shore, leaving the two boys to sink with the vessel.

Captain Glass's boy could not swim, and he was therefore soon drowned; but the other lad swam to the boat, when Zekerman struck him a violent blow on the breast, which occasioned him immediately to sink.

Having thus massacred eight innocent persons, the villains proceeded to the mouth of the river Ross; but thinking it would be dangerous to go up the river with so much riches, they buried two hundred and fifty bags of dollars in the sand, and conveyed as much treasure as they could possibly bear about their persons to a village called Fisher-town, where they stopped for refreshment; and during their regale, an Irishman privately robbed them of a bag containing twelve hundred dollars.

On the following day they went to Ross, and there sold twelve hundred dollars. Having purchased each a pair of pistols, and hired horses for themselves and two guides, they rode to Dublin, and took up their residence at the Black Bull, in Thomas-street.

The wreck of the ship was driven on shore on the day of their leaving Ross; and the manner in which the villains had lived at Fisher-town and Ross, their general behaviour, and other circumstances, being understood as grounds for suspicion of their being pirates, an express was dispatched by two gentlemen to the lords of the regency at Dublin, exhibiting the several causes of suspicion, and giving a particular description of the supposed delinquents.

On board the wreck was found a sampler worked by Miss

Glass, from which it appeared that a part of the work was done on her birth-day, which afterwards proved to be the day preceding that on which the murders were perpetrated; and this sampler proved a principle means of leading to a discovery of the guilt of these abominable villains.

The gentlemen who were commissioned to attend the lords of the regency had no sooner communicated their business than the lord-mayor and sheriffs were sent for; and proper instructions being given them, they on the same night caused M'Kinlie and Zekerman to be taken into custody.

The prisoners were separately examined, and they both confessed the particulars of their guilt, and that their accomplices had that morning hired a post-chaise for Cork, where they meant to embark on board a vessel bound for England.

Gidley and St. Quintin were the next day taken into custody at an inn on the road to Cork; and they followed the example of their accomplices, in acknowledging themselves guilty. The sheriff of Ross took possession of the effects found in the wreck, and the bags of dollars that the villains had buried in the sand, and deposited the whole in the treasury of Dublin, for the benefit of the proprietors.

The prisoners being brought to trial, they confessed themselves guilty of the charges alledged in the indictment; and they were condemned to suffer death, and their bodies to be hung in chains in the neighbourhood of Dublin.

ELIZABETH BROWNRIGG,

Executed at Tyburn, September 14, 1767, for torturing her female Apprentice to Death.

THE long scene of torture in which this inhuman woman kept the innocent object of her remorseless cruelty, ere she

finished the long premeditated murder more engaged the interest of the superior ranks, and roused the indignation of the populace, more than any criminal in the whole course of our melancholy narratives.

The very name of Brownrigg (though several honourable English families, for generations back, have borne the name, to the present day,) is held up as a warning to women of an unfeeling and cruel disposition. Yet, the atrocities of several others already described, are certainly, so far as one foul deed in horror can somewhat exceed the other, of a blacker hue; still the general execration and the finger of scorn were more distinctly pointed at Elizabeth Brownrigg.

This cruel woman having passed the early part of her life in the service of private families, was married to James Brownrigg, a plumber, who, after being seven years in Greenwich, came to London, and took a house in Flower-de-luce court, Fleet-street, where he carried on a considerable share of business, and had a little house at Islington, for an occasional retreat.

She had been the mother of sixteen children, and having practised midwifery, was appointed, by the overseers of the poor of St. Dunstan's parish, to take care of the poor women who were taken in labour in the workhouse; which duty she performed to the entire satisfaction of her employers.

Mary Mitchell, a poor girl, of the precinct of White-Friars, was put apprentice to Mrs. Brownrigg in the year 1765; and about the same time Mary Jones, one of the children of the Foundling Hospital, was likewise placed with her in the same capacity; and she had other apprentices.

As Mrs. Brownrigg received pregnant women to lie-in privately, these girls were taken with a view of saving the expence of women servants. At first, the poor orphans were treated with some degree of civility; but this was soon changed for the most savage barbarity.

Having laid Mary Jones across two chairs in the kitchen,

she whipped her with such wanton cruelty, that she was occasionally obliged to desist through mere weariness.

This treatment was frequently repeated; and Mrs. Brownrigg used to throw water on her when she had done whipping her, and sometimes she would dip her head into a pail of water. The room appointed for the girl to sleep in adjoined to the passage leading to the street door, and as she had received many wounds on her head, shoulders, and various parts of the body, she determined not to bear such treatment any longer, if she could effect her escape.

Observing that the key was left in the street-door when the family went to bed, she opened the door cautiously one morning, and escaped into the street.

Thus freed from her horrid confinement, she repeatedly enquired her way to the Foundling-hospital, till she found it, and was admitted, after describing in what manner she had been treated, and shewing the bruises she had received.

The child having been examined by a surgeon, who found her wounds to be of a most alarming nature, the governors of the hospital ordered Mr. Plumbtree, their solicitor, to write to James Brownrigg, threatening a prosecution, if he did not give a proper reason for the severities exercised toward the child.

No notice of this having been taken, and the governors of the hospital thinking it imprudent to indict at common law, the girl was discharged, in consequence of an application to the chamberlain of London. The other girl, Mary Mitchell, continued with her mistress for the space of a year, during which she was treated with equal cruelty, and she also resolved to quit her service. Having escaped out of the house, she was met in the street by the younger son of Brownrigg, who forced her to return home, where her sufferings were greatly aggravated on account of her elopement. In the interim, the overseers of the precinct of White Friars bound Mary Clifford to Brownrigg; nor was it long before she experienced similar cruelties to those inflicted on the other poor girls, and possibly still more se-

vere. She was frequently tied up naked, and beaten with a hearth broom, a horse-whip, or a cane, till she was absolutely speechless. This poor girl having a natural infirmity, the mistress would not permit her to lie in a bed, but placed her on a mat, in a coal-hole that was remarkably cold; however, after some time, a sack and a quantity of straw formed her bed, instead of the mat. During her confinement in this wretched situation, she had nothing to subsist on but bread and water; and her covering, during the night, consisted only of her own cloaths, so that she sometimes lay almost perished with cold.

On a particular occasion, when she was almost starving with hunger, she broke open a cupboard in search of food, but found it empty; and on another occasion she broke down some boards, in order to procure a draught of water.

Though she was thus pressed for the humblest necessaries of life, Mrs. Brownrigg determined to punish her with rigour for the means she had taken to supply herself with them. On this she caused the girl to strip to the skin, and during the course of a whole day, while she remained naked, she repeatedly beat her with the but-end of a whip.

In the course of this most inhuman treatment, a jack chain was fixed round her neck, the end of which was fastened to the yard door, and then it was pulled as tight as possible, without strangling her.

A day being passed in the practice of these savage barbarities, the girl was remanded to the coal hole at night; her hands being tied behind her, and the chain still remaining about her neck.

The husband having been obliged to find his wife's apprentices in wearing apparel, they were repeatedly stript naked, and kept so for whole days, if their garments happened to be torn.

The elder son had frequently the superintendance of these wretched girls; but this was sometimes committed to the apprentice, who declared, that she was totally naked one night when he went to tie her up. The two poor girls were frequently so beaten, that their heads and shoulders appear-

did as one general sore; and when a plaister was applied to their wounds, the skin used to peel away with it.

Sometimes Mrs. Brownrigg, when resolved on uncommon severity, used to tie their hands with a cord, and draw them up to a water-pipe which ran across the ceiling in the kitchen; but that giving way, she desired her husband to fix a hook in the beam, through which a cord was drawn, and their arms being extended, she used to horsewhip them till she was weary, and till the blood followed at every stroke.

The elder son having one day directed Mary Clifford to put up a half-tester bedstead, the poor girl was unable to do it; on which he beat her till she could no longer support his severity; and at another time, when the mother had been whipping her in the kitchen till she was absolutely tired, the son renewed the savage treatment. Mrs. Brownrigg would sometimes seize the poor girl by the cheeks, and forcing the skin down violently with her fingers, caused the blood to gush from her eyes.

Mary Clifford, unable to bear these repeated severities, complained of her hard treatment to a French lady who lodged in the house; and she having represented the impropriety of such behaviour to Mrs. Brownrigg, the inhuman monster flew at the girl, and cut her tongue in two places with a pair of scissars.

On the morning of the 18th of July, this barbarous woman went into the kitchen, and after obliging Mary Clifford to strip to the skin, drew her up to the staple, and, though her body was an intire sore, from her former bruises, yet this wretch renewed her cruelties with her accustomed severities.

After whipping her till the blood streamed down her body, she let her down, and made her wash herself in a tub of cold water: Mary Mitchell, the other poor girl, being present during this transaction. While Clifford was washing herself, Mrs. Brownrigg struck her on the shoulders, already sore with former bruises, with the but-end of a whip; and she treated the child in this manner five times in the same day.

The poor girl's wounds now began to shew evident signs of mortification; her mother-in-law, who had resided some time in the country, came about this time to town, and enquired after her. Being informed that she was placed at Brownrigg's, she went thither, but was refused admittance by Mr. Brownrigg, who even threatened to carry her before the Lord Mayor, if she came there to make further disturbances. Hereupon, the mother-in-law was going away, when Mrs. Deacon, wife of Mr. Deacon, baker, at the adjoining house, called her in, and informed her, that she and her family had often heard moanings and groans issue from Brownrigg's house, and that she suspected the apprentices were treated with unwarrantable severity. This good woman likewise promised to exert herself to ascertain the truth.

At this juncture, Mr. Brownrigg going to Hampstead on business, bought a hog, which he sent home. The hog was put into a covered yard, having a sky-light, which it was thought necessary to remove, in order to give air to the animal.

As soon as it was known that the sky-light was removed, Mr. Deacon ordered his servants to watch, in order, if possible, to discover the girls. Deacon's servant-maid looking from a window, saw one of the girls stooping down, on which she called her mistress, and she desired the attendance of some of the neighbours, who having been witnesses of the shocking scene, some men got upon the leads, and dropped bits of dirt, in order to induce the girl to speak to them; but she seemed wholly incapable. Hereupon, Mrs. Deacon sent to the girl's mother-in-law, who immediately called upon Mr. Grundy, one of the overseers of St. Dunstan's, and represented the case. Mr. Grundy and the rest of the overseers, with the women, went and demanded a sight of Mary Clifford; but Brownrigg, who had Nick-named her Nan, told them that he knew no such person, but if they wanted to see Mary, (meaning Mary Mitchell), they might, and accordingly produced her. Upon this, Mr. Deacon's servant declared, that Mary Mitchell was not the girl they wanted. Mr. Grundy now sent for a constable, to search the house, but no discovery was then made.

Mr. Brownrigg threatened highly, but Mr. Grundy, with the spirit that became the officer of a parish, took Mary Mitchell with him to the workhouse, where, on the taking off her leathern boddice, it stuck so fast to her wounds, that she shrieked with the pain; but, on being treated with great humanity, and told that she should not be sent back to Brownrigg's, she gave an account of the horrid treatment that she and Mary Clifford had sustained, and confessed that she had met the latter on the stairs just before they came to the house. Hereupon Mr. Grundy and some others returned to the house, to make a stricter search; on which Brownrigg sent for a lawyer, in order to intimidate them, and even threatened a prosecution, unless they immediately quitted the premises. Unterrified by these threats, Mr. Grundy sent for a coach, to carry Brownrigg to the Compter; on which the latter promised to produce the girl in about half an hour, if the coach was discharged. This being consented to, the girl was produced from a cupboard, under a beaufet in the dining-room, after a pair of shoes, which young Brownrigg had in his hand during the proposal, had been put upon her. It is not in language to describe the miserable appearance this poor girl made; almost her whole body was ulcerated.

Being taken to the workhouse, an apothecary was sent for, who pronounced her to be in danger.

Brownrigg was conveyed to Woodstreet-compter; but his wife and son made their escape, taking with them a gold watch and some money. Mr. Brownrigg was now carried before aldermam Crossby, who fully committed him, and ordered the girls to be taken to St. Bartholomew's hospital, where Mary Clifford died within a few days; and the coroner's inquest being summoned, found a verdict of Wilful Murder against James and Elizabeth Brownrigg, and John their son.

In the mean time, Mrs. Brownrigg and her son, shifted from place to place in London, bought cloaths in Rag-fair, to disguise themselves, and then went to Wandsworth, where they took lodgings in the house of Mr. Dunbar, who kept a chandler's shop.

This chandler happening to read a newspaper on the 15th of August, saw an advertisement which so clearly described his lodgers, that he had no doubt but they were the murderers.

On this, he went to London the next day, which was Sunday, and going to church, sent for Mr. Owen, the churchwarden, to attend him in the vestry, and gave him such a description of the parties, that Mr. Owen desired Mr. Deacon and Mr. Wingrave, a constable, to go to Wandsworth, and make the necessary enquiry.

On their arrival at Dunbar's house, they found the wretched mother and son in a room by themselves, who evinced great agitation at this discovery. A coach being procured, they were conveyed to London, without any person in Wandsworth having knowledge of the affair, except Mr. and Mrs. Dunbar.

At the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey, the father, mother, and son, were indicted; when Elizabeth Brownrigg, after a trial of eleven hours, was found guilty of murder, and ordered for execution; but the man and his son, being acquitted of the higher charge,* were detained, to take their trials for a misdemeanor, of which they were convicted, and imprisoned for the space of six months.

After sentence of death was passed on Mrs. Brownrigg, she was attended by a clergyman, to whom she confessed the enormity of her crime, and acknowledged the justice of the sentence by which she had been condemned. The parting between her and her husband and son, on the morning of her execution, was affecting beyond description. The son falling on his knees, she bent herself over him and embraced him; while the husband was kneeling on the other side.

On her way to the fatal tree, the people expressed their abhorrence of her crime, in terms which though not proper

* It seems the child was looked upon as the apprentice of the wife, and not the husband, though the husband was obliged to find her apparel; however, accessaries in murder are equally guilty, and it is strange that the man and his son should have been acquitted.

at the moment, testified their detestation of her cruelty. Before her exit, she joined in prayers with the ordinary of Newgate, whom she desired to declare to the multitude, that she confessed her guilt, and acknowledged the justice of her sentence.

After execution, her body was put into a hackney-coach, conveyed to Surgeons'-hall, dissected, and anatomized; and her skeleton hung up in Surgeons'-hall.

MUNGO CAMPBELL,

a Gentleman, convicted of killing the Earl of Eglington, and who, to avoid an ignominious Death, destroyed himself, but died much lamented, the 30th of February 1760.

THE game laws, the last badge of the feudal system, and the only remaining statute repugnant to the boasted freedom of an Englishman, still remain a rod in the hands of the rich, to keep in awe his fellow men, born free as himself.

Instead of meliorating this ancient badge of slavery, the game laws have very lately been extended, by our own representatives, in parliament assembled. Even the woodcock, a visiting bird, from distant climes; nay, the little snipes, are now monopolized by the great.

Well may the Americans, in their exultation on acquiring true liberty, point the finger of scorn at the cultivator of land in England, who dares not to destroy the spoiles of his harvest. The partridge fattened on his corn, and the hare encroaching on his very garden, cropping the tender plants, raised for his more immediate support, must not, in their plunder, be disturbed; for the very act of chasing them from their depredations, observed by some lordly dependent, more tyrannical than the lord himself, will be construed into an offence against the game-laws, and the free-born Englishman cast into a loathsome prison, prosecuted, and fined, often beyond his power to satisfy, and thus families sink in ruin!!!

The citizens of London enjoyed, in former times, an exemption, as a matter of favour, from the game laws, then in force.

King Henry I. granted them a charter, in which are these words, "And the citizens of London may have their chases to hunt, as well and as fully as their ancestors have had, (that is to say) in Chiltrie,* and in Middlesex, and in Surry."

This charter was confirmed by king Henry II. Richard and John I. and Henry III. and enjoyed by the said citizens, until the reign of Charles II. That thoughtless, the citizens may add, ungrateful, monarch, after being, in a great measure, restored to the throne by the citizens of London, deprived them of this most ancient right.

That royal grant which existed through the commotions of the land, caused by the contending powers of York and Lancaster, and through the civil wars of his father, Charles, who put his hand to an act, which deprived them of a privilege enjoyed above five hundred years. This act is called "The qualification act," and though it does not notice the ancient grant of Henry I. yet it virtually repeals it.

It was Mr. Campbell's misfortune, and we know no greater, save worldly want, to live adjoining to the estate of an ennobled man—the Earl of Eglington.

In the course of this narrative we shall find that he was possessed of an estate of the value of sixty pounds a year, a little independence in Scotland thirty years ago, but yet forty less than the law estimates a man to be worth, in order to qualify him to kill game.

The much-to-be-lamented Mr. Campbell was descended from the noble family of Argyle, and born at Ayre, in Scotland. His father was an eminent merchant, had been mayor of the town, and a justice of the peace: but having no less than twenty-four children, and meeting with many losses in his commercial connections, it was impossible for him to make any adequate provision for his family; so that,

* A part of Hertfordshire, near St. Alban's.

on his death, the relations took care of the children, and educated them in the liberal manner which is customary in Scotland.

The unhappy subject of this narrative was protected by an uncle, who gave him a learned education; but this generous friend dying when the youth was about eighteen years of age, left him sixty pounds, and earnestly recommended him to the care of his other relations.

The young man was a finished scholar: yet seemed averse to the making choice of any of the learned professions. His attachment appeared to be to the military life, in which line many of his ancestors had most gloriously distinguished themselves.

Mr. Campbell now entered as a cadet in the royal regiment of Scotch Greys, then commanded by his relation general Campbell, and served during two campaigns at his own expence, in the fond hope of military preferment.

After the battle of Dettingen, at which he assisted, he had an opportunity of being appointed quarter-master, if he could have raised one hundred pounds; but this place was bestowed on another person, while Campbell was making fruitless application for the money.

Thus disappointed of what he thought a reasonable expectation, he quitted the army, and went into Scotland, where he arrived at the juncture that the rebels had quitted Edinburgh, in 1745, Lord Loudon having then the command of loyal highlanders, who exerted so much bravery in the suppression of the rebellion; and Mr. Campbell having the honour to be related to his lordship, he went and fought under him with a bravery that did equal credit to his loyalty and courage.

Not long after the decisive battle of Culloden, Lord Loudon procured his kinsman to be appointed an officer of the excise; and prevailed on the commissioners to station him in the shire of Ayre, that he might have the happiness of residing near his friends and relations.

In the discharge of this new duty, Mr. Campbell, behaved with strict integrity to the crown, yet with so much civility as to conciliate the affections of all those with whom he had

any transactions. He married when he was somewhat advanced in life; and so unexceptionable was his whole conduct, that all the nobility and gentry in the neighbourhood (the earl of Eglington excepted) gave him permission to kill game on their estates. However, he was very moderate in the use of this indulgence, seldom shooting but with a view to gratify a friend with a present; hardly ever for his own emolument.

Mr. Campbell had a singular attachment to fishing; and a river in lord Eglington's estate affording the finest fish in that country, he would willingly have angled there; but his lordship being as strict with regard to his fish as the game, Campbell, unwilling to offend him, gave away his fishing-tackle, which was excellent in its kind. He was likewise in possession of a fine pointer, which he sold; but would not part with his gun, which produced him the greatest pleasure of his life.

Campbell being in search of smugglers, and having his gun with him, was crossing part of lord Eglington's estate, when a hare starting up he shot her. His lordship hearing the report of the gun, and being informed that Campbell had fired it, he sent a servant to command him to come to the seat.

Campbell obeyed the disagreeable summons, but was treated very cavalierly by his lordship, who even descended to call him by names of contempt. The other apologized for his conduct, which he said arose from the sudden starting of the hare; and declared that he had no design of giving offence. This might have been a sufficient apology to any other man than Lord Eglington.

A man named Bartleymore was among the servants of lord Eglington, and was a favourite of his lordship; and this man dealt largely in contraband goods. Mr. Campbell, passing along the sea-shore, met Bartleymore with a cart containing eighty gallons of rum, which he seized as contraband; and the rum was condemned, but the cart was restored, as being the property of Lord Eglington.

In this affair it will appear evident that Mr. Campbell did not exceed his duty; but Bartleymore was so incensed

against him, that he contrived many tales to his disadvantage, and at length engaged his lordship's passions so far, that he conceived a more unfavourable opinion of Campbell than he had hitherto done. In the mean time, the latter had no consciousness of having given offence by the seizure of the rum, which was made only in discharge of his duty; and therefore he was wholly regardless of the common report of lord Eglington's enmity to him.

About ten in the morning of the 24th of October, 1769, Campbell took his gun, and went out with another officer, with a view to detect smugglers. Mr. Campbell took with him a licence for shooting, which had been given him by Dr. Hunter; though they had no particular design of killing any game, but intended to shoot a woodcock if they should see one.

They crossed a small part of lord Eglington's estate, in order to reach the sea-shore, where they intended to walk. When they arrived at this spot it was near noon, and lord Eglington came up in his coach, attended by Mr. Wilson, a carpenter, who was working for him, and followed by four servants on horseback. On approaching the coast, his lordship met Bartleymore, who told him that there were some poachers at a distance. Mr. Wilson would have endeavoured to draw off his lordship's notice from such a business; but Bartleymore saying that Campbell was among the poachers, lord Eglington quitted his coach, and mounting a led horse, rode to the spot, where he saw Campbell and the other officer, whose name was Brown. His lordship said, "Mr. Campbell, I did not expect to have found you so soon again on my grounds, after your promise when you shot the hare." He then demanded Campbell's gun, which the latter declared he would not part with.

Lord Eglington now rode towards him; while Campbell retreated, with his gun presented, desiring him to keep at a distance. Still, however, his lordship advanced, smiling, and said, "Are you going to shoot me?" Campbell replied, "I will, if you do not keep off." Hereupon lord Eglington called to his servants to bring him a gun, which one of them

took from the coach, and delivered to another to carry to their master.

In the interim lord Eglington, leading his horse, approached Mr. Campbell, and demanded his gun; but the latter would not deliver it. The peer then quitted his horse's bridle, and continued advancing, while Campbell still retired, though in an irregular direction, and pointed his gun towards his pursuer.

At length lord Eglington came so near him that Campbell said, "I beg you pardon, my lord, but I will not deliver my gun to any man living; therefore keep off, or I will certainly shoot you." At this instant Bartleymore advancing, begged Campbell to deliver his gun to lord Eglington: but the latter answered, he would not, for "he had a right to carry a gun."

His lordship did not dispute his *general* right, but said that he could not have *any* to carry it on his estate without his permission. Campbell again begged pardon, and still continued retreating, but with his gun in his hand, and preparing to fire in his own defence. While he was thus walking backwards his heel struck against a stone, and he fell, when he was about the distance of three yards from the pursuer. Lord Eglington, observed him fall on his back, stepped forward, as if he would have passed by Campbell's feet, which the latter observing, reared himself on his elbow, and lodged the contents of his piece in the left side of his lordship's body.

At this critical juncture the servant above mentioned brought the gun from the coach, and Campbell would have wrested it from his hands, but that Bartleymore came up just at the very moment; and at this moment lord Eglington, putting his hand to his wound, said, "I am killed."

A contest now ensued, during which Bartleymore repeatedly struck Campbell, which being observed by lord Eglington, he called out, "Do not use him ill." Campbell being secured, was conducted to the wounded man, then laying on the ground, who said, "Mr. Campbell, I would not have shot you;" but Campbell made no answer.

"My parks, my walks, my manors that I had,
"Even now forsake me; and of all my lands,
"Is nothing left me but my body's length."

SHAKESPEARE.

Lord Eglington's seat was about three miles from the place where this fatal accident happened; and his servants put him into the carriage to convey him home. In the mean time Campbell's hands were tied behind him; and he was conducted to the town of Saltcoats, the place of his former station as an exciseman.

The persons who conducted him, asked him several questions; the answers to which were afterwards, very ungeneously as we conceive, adduced on his trial, as collateral evidence of his guilt. Among other things, he acknowledged that he would rather part with his life than his gun; and that, sooner than have it taken from him, he would shoot any peer of the realm.

Lord Eglington dying, after languishing ten hours, Mr. Campbell was, on the following day, committed to the prison of Ayre, and the next month removed to Edinburgh, in preparation for his trial before the high court of justiciary; previous to which his case was discussed by council, and the following arguments were adduced in his favour. It was said in the first place,

"That the gun went off by accident, and therefore it could be no more than casual homicide."

"Secondly, That supposing it had been fired with an intention to kill, yet the act was altogether justifiable, because of the violent provocation he had received; and he was doing no more than defending his life and property."

"Thirdly, It could not be murder, because it could not be supposed that Mr. Campbell had any malice against his lordship, and the action itself was too sudden to admit of deliberation."

The council for the prosecution urged in answer, in the first place,

"That it was certain malice was implied in consequence

of Campbell's presenting the gun to his lordship and telling him that unless he kept off, he would shoot him."

"Secondly, That there was no provocation given by the earl besides, words and words shall not be construed a provocation in law."

"Thirdly, The earl had a right to seize his gun, in virtue of several acts of parliament, which are the established laws of the land, to which every subject is obliged to be obedient."

After repeated debates between the lawyers of Scotland a day was at length appointed for the trial, which commenced on the 27th of February, 1770, before the high court of justiciary; and the jury having found Mr. Campbell guilty, he was sentenced to die.

The lord Justice Clerk, before he pronounced the solemn sentence, addressed himself to the convict, advising him to make the most devout preparation for death, as all hopes of pardon would be precluded, from the nature of his offence.

Through the whole course of his trial, the prisoner's behaviour was remarkable for calmness and serenity; and when it was ended, he bowed to the court with the utmost composure, but said not a single word in extenuation of his crime.

On his return to prison, he was visited by several of his friends, among whom he behaved with apparently decent cheerfulness: and, retiring to his apartment, he begged the favour of a visit from them on the following day; but in the morning he was found dead, hanged to the end of a form which he had set upright, and fastened a silk handkerchief round his neck.

The following lines were found upon the floor close to the body.

"Farewell vain world I've had enough of thee,
"And now am careless what thou say'st of me,
"Thy smiles I court not, nor thy frowns I fear,
"My cares are past, my heart lies easy here,
"What faults they find in me take care to shun,
"And look at home, enough is to be done."

JAMES BOLLAND,

A Sheriff's officer, and a most unconscionable villian,

Executed at Tyburn, March 18, 1772, for Forgery.

THE Criminal Annals of the British nation hardly produce a more complicated scene of profligacy and plunder than that which will be found in the life of James Bolland.

Jonathan Wild, that prince of thieves, can, perhaps, alone, claim pre-eminence in villainy. Jonathan robbed under the cloak of a thief-taker; James committed his depredations as a Sheriff's officer. Jonathan *plundered* the very thieves themselves; James *sponged* the unfortunate debtors out of their last shilling, till justice overtook him for committing forgery.

Bolland was the son of a butcher, and he brought his son up to the same business. The youth having early proofs of a profligate turn of mind, and constantly associated with worthless people of both sexes.

The term of his servitude being expired, Bolland opened a shop in the Borough of Southwark, and his business afforded him a very favourable prospect of success; but through his irregularity and extravagance his trade gradually declined, and to free himself from some embarrassments that his misconduct had produced, he sold his effects.

Bolland's favourite associates, for some years, had been bailiffs, bailiffs' followers, thief-takers, and runners to the different prisons; and the natural cruelty of his disposition being encouraged by the example of the worthless people in whose company he spent the greatest part of his time, he resolved to gain a maintenace by preying upon the distresses of his fellow-creatures.

Having procured himself to be appointed one of the officers to the sheriff of the county of Surry, he hired a house at the bottom of Falcon-court, facing St. George's church, Southwark; and having fitted it up in the manner

of a prison, it was soon inhabited by a number of unfortunate persons.

The people he arrested, who were in indigent circumstances, he took to gaol as soon as the law would permit; but such as were in a different situation, were entertained in his house, till all their money was spent, or they insisted upon going to prison, to avoid further imposition, or till the writs by which they were detained, became returnable.

The money he extorted from his guests, by divers stratagems, was so considerable, that he held the fees usually paid at lock-up houses as almost beneath his regard, and frequently distributed them among his followers and other servants.

Bolland was continually endeavouring to encourage card-playing in his house, and when his unfortunate guests had recourse to that diversion, for employing the tedious moments of confinement, he seldom failed to join in the game; and though he suffered no opportunity of cheating them, even in the most palpable manner, to escape him, they were obliged to submit to the insult and imposition; for if they ventured to expostulate on the unfairness of his proceedings, it was his custom to discharge a volley of blasphemous oaths, and to threaten that he would instantly take them to gaol, for daring to affront him in his own house.

Some of his prisoners, hoping their affairs would be speedily compromised, and others who were not so happy as to entertain such favourable expectations, wishing to remain as long as possible without the walls of a prison; the insolence of the tyrant was greatly submitted to by men, who, had not their spirits been depressed by the weight of misfortunes, would have disdained to be made the dupes of such atrocious villainy.

Though the emoluments arising from the infamous practices of Bolland were very considerable, they were not equal to the expences of his profligate course of life.

His wine-merchant, and many other persons having demands upon him that he was unable to discharge, he procured a person to sue out a commission of bankruptcy against him; but before the commission took place, he

secreted his most valuable effects; and he farther defrauded his creditors, by giving notes and other securities to a number of people who had received no valuable considerations from him; and by means of these monial creditors he obtained his certificate in a very short time.

Among a number of frauds committed while he lived in the Borough was the following: He went into Oxfordshire, and there purchased a string of horses. Having paid for them, he expressed a desire of having a mare, which the owner positively refused to sell; however, the following morning Bolland took away the horses he had bought, and with them the mare, wholly unknown to the person whose property she was. The owner of the mare intended to prosecute Bolland for the felony; but he was dissuaded from that measure, and advised to draw a bill upon him for the value of the beast. Bolland accepted the bill, but he became a bankrupt before the time of payment arrived.

The infamous practices of Bolland had now rendered his character so notorious, that the attornies imagined that, if they continued to employ him, they should be reflected upon for encouraging so abandoned a villain; and such repeated and heavy complaints were made against him, that his business rapidly declined; but instead of endeavouring to obtain better success, by an amendment of his conduct, he seized every opportunity of practising extortion and fraud with greater rapacity, and became a still more abominable pest to society.

He resolved to remove from Surry into the county of Middlesex, where he expected more frequent opportunities would occur for gratifying his avaricious and oppressive disposition.

Notwithstanding the infamy that was justly annexed to the character of this accomplished villain, he procured persons to become his bondsmen, and made interest to be nominated one of the officers to the Sheriff of the county of Middlesex.

He opened a spunging-house in the Savoy; but it was some time before he had a prospect of success. He industriously sought every opportunity of joining in conversation with attornies, and by an artful insinuating conduct, at

length ingratiated himself into the favour of several of that fraternity, who were not very remarkable either for discernment or integrity: and his business gradually increased.

Bolland was an almost daily frequenter of places where billiards and other games were practised; and at one of these meetings he fell into company with a gentleman, who employed him to arrest the captain of a ship in the East-India service, for a debt of three hundred pounds, promising him a handsome compliment, on condition of his recovering the money, or taking the prisoner into custody. Bolland assured his employer, that he would use his utmost endeavours to serve the writ the next day.

The following morning the gentleman set out for the country, and in the course of the day Bolland arrested the captain, who immediately paid the debt and costs.

In a short time the captain proceeded on his voyage; and the gentleman, at whose suit he had been arrested, coming to London soon afterwards, Bolland waited upon him, and said, though he had made use of every stratagem he could possibly devise, the captain had eluded all his art, and got to sea; and in order to enhance the promised gratuity, he pretended, that his extraordinary vigilance to serve the writ had envolved him in much trouble and some expence, for the truth of which he appealed to his followers, who readily supported all the falsities advanced by their wicked employer; and the gentleman, being thus deceived, he made Bolland a handsome present.

Upon the return of the ship from the East-Indies, another writ was taken out; but Bolland being gone to a horse-race, it was given to another officer.

The bailiff went to Blackwall, and presently finding the captain, said he must either pay the three hundred pounds, or go with him to a place of security; but the captain shewing the officer Bolland's receipt for the money, he returned to town, and informed his employer that the debt was discharged to Bolland, previous to the captain's sailing for India.

A suit at law was now instituted against Bolland, for the

recovery of three hundred pounds. Justice was so indisputably clear on the side of the plaintiff, that Bolland knew he must inevitably be cast, if the matter came to trial; yet, at a considerable expence, he protracted a judicial decision of the case, imagining his adversary would give up his claim, rather than pursue him through all the delays and chicanery of the law.

The cause at length was brought to a hearing, and judgment being pronounced in favour of the plaintiff, Bolland being surrendered by his bail, was taken in execution. He was conducted to a lock-up-house, where he remained some time, and then moved himself by habeas corpus to the Fleet-prison, from which place he was released by virtue of an act of insolvency.

Bolland, and a person with whom he had contracted an acquaintance in the Fleet, were enlarged nearly at the same time; and the latter soon after went into business, and found means to procure bondsmen for his companion who was again appointed an officer to the sheriff of Middlesex.

Bolland now hired a large house in Great Shire-lane, near Temple-bar, but, that the outward appearance might not convey an intimation of the service and tyrannical treatment that was to be exercised within, the windows were not according to the general custom at spunging-houses, secured with iron bars.

When prisoners came into the house, he informed them, that it was his custom to charge six shillings per day for board and lodging; added, that the entertainment would be such as should give universal satisfaction, and that all trouble and disagreements concerning reckonings would be avoided; and such as refused to comply with their exorbitant terms were instantly conducted to gaol.

When Bolland's prisoners appeared inclinable to remove to the King's Bench or Fleet, he used every artifice he could suggest for detaining them in his house, till they had exhausted the means of supplying his extravagant avarice; but when their money was expended, no entreaties could prevail on the merciless villain to give them credit for the

most trifling article, or to suffer them to continue another hour in his house.

His common excuse for this rapacious and brutal conduct was, that he incurred very considerable expence by supporting a house for accommodating gentlemen, and such as wished to be treated consistently with that character, must pay accordingly.

Notwithstanding the public infamy of Bolland's character, he transacted perhaps more than double the business of any man in the same profession.

Not satisfied with the great emoluments he derived from cruelly oppressing his unhappy prisoners, he had recourse to practices which, though not less injurious in themselves were more calculated to bring him under the censure of the law.

He defrauded a great number of tradesmen of property to a considerable amount; and among them was an upholsterer, of whom he obtained household furniture to the value of 200l. under false pretences.

Though Bolland was a married man, he was violently addicted to the company of abandoned women; and when his wife expostulated on the impropriety of his illicit connections, he applied to her the most disgraceful epithets, accompanied with vollies of profane oaths, and frequently beat her in a barbarous manner.

His conversation proved the vulgarity of his breeding, and his whole behaviour marked him as a worthless and detestable character.

These disqualifying circumstances, however, proved no impediment to his being received on terms of familiarity by several women who were in the keeping of persons of distinction. But this will be no longer surprising, when it is considered that money is ever a sufficient recommendation to the favour of that abandoned part of the sex who subsist on the wages of prostitution.

Bolland frequently took debtors into custody who had sought shelter within the verge of the Board of Green Cloth: and for an offence of this kind he was once called

before the Board, and ordered to pay the sum for which he had illegally detained the complaining party.

Bolland was connected with two men of infamous characters; one of whom was chiefly employed in discovering persons on whom the arts of villainy might be practised with the most success; and the other was an attorney, by whose assistance Bolland was frequently relieved from embarrassments, and enabled to execute his villainous projects, in such a manner as to evade the punishment of the law.

Bolland, and his two associates above-mentioned, got possession of a bill for thirty pounds, that had been stolen out of a gentleman's pocket. The bill was presented for payment, which was refused, the party on whom it was drawn alledging that it had been stolen. Hereupon the attorney wrote to the gentleman, that an arrest would follow, unless the bill was immediately discharged. The answer signified that, if an arrest was resolved upon, the writ might be left with an attorney in Chancery-lane, who would put in bail.

Mortified and disappointed by the spirited repulse they had received, and despairing of obtaining cash for the bill by means of threats, they determined to arrest the gentleman, and take him to Bolland's house, where they supposed they could scarcely fail of extorting some money from him.

A messenger was dispatched to desire the gentleman's company at the King's-head-tavern, in Bridges-street. He attended according to the appointment, and was arrested by Bolland; who, pretending to be desirous of acting with all possible lenity, told the gentleman that he would wave his power of taking him to a place of confinement, lest his reputation should be injured, on condition that he would give him proper security. Hereupon the gentleman deposited thirty pounds in Bolland's hands: but the note was still detained, with a view of gaining further advantage.

The gentleman communicated all the circumstances that had come to his knowledge, to his attorney, who moved the court of King's-Bench for a rule.

Bolland and his accomplices, however, determined still to contest the matter, though they were conscious that the cause must certainly be decided in favour of their adversary.

When prisoners came into Bolland's house, he immediately employed his followers to make particular inquiries into the state of their pecuniary affairs, and the extent of their connections; and, according to the information he received, he suggested plans for deceiving his unhappy guests.

A young gentleman whose imprudencies had drawn upon him the displeasure of his friends, was arrested at the suit of his taylor, and confined in Bolland's house.

His money being soon expended, and despairing of being able to effect a compromise with his creditor, he expressed a desire of being moved to the King's Bench or the Fleet.

Bolland informed him that he must be taken to Newgate, that being the gaol for the county; and that he could not be moved to either of the other prisons but by means of a writ of habeas corpus.

The young gentleman was greatly alarmed at the idea of being confined in Newgate, which he supposed to be a place for the reception only of felons.

Bolland, perceiving his anxiety, advised him to recall his resolution, saying, that if he would follow his directions, a method might still be adopted for relieving him from all his difficulties. Anxious to recover his liberty, the youth said, if Bolland would signify the means by which so desirable a purpose was to be obtained, he would gladly embrace the proposal, and ever consider him as his most generous benefactor.

Hereupon Bolland informed him, that he would immediately procure bail, and then recommended him to different tradesmen of whom he might obtain a chariot and horses, household furniture, and other effects, on credit; adding, that he would find no difficulty in obtaining a fortune by marriage, before he would be called upon for the discharge of his debts.

The young man being released on the bail of two of Bolland's accomplices, a chariot was procured, and a house hired and furnished very elegantly; and one of Bolland's followers assumed the character of a footman, from the double motive of assisting in the scheme of villainy, and reporting to his principal all the particulars of the conduct of the imprudent young man.

Reports were industriously propagated that the youth was heir to an immense fortune; and, by a variety of stratagems, effects to a considerable amount were obtained from different tradesmen, greater part of which were deposited in Bolland's house, by way of security to him for the bail he had procured.

Payment for the furniture and other effects being demanded, the creditors were for some time amused by a variety of plausible pretences; but at length they became exceedingly importunate for their money; and Bolland, now concluding that the young man could no longer be made subservient to his villainous stratagems, surrendered him in discharge of his bail, and caused him to be conveyed to Newgate.

The persons whom he had been seduced to defraud were no sooner acquainted with the imprisonment of the young adventurer, than they lodged detainers against him.

His unfortunate connections having greatly exasperated his relations and friends, they refused to afford him any kind of assistance, and his situation became truly deplorable.

His present distress, and the upbraidings of conscience for the impropriety of his conduct, overwhelmed him with affliction, which soon put a period to his life.

Bolland, ever regarding the wreck he occasioned with apathy, went on his course of wickedness. He provided Jew, or fictitious bail, for persons who were under arrest! and when he knew that the persons whom he himself arrested, were not in desperate circumstances, he frequently released them, after exacting money from them, and the promise to surrender if they could not compromise matters with their creditors. He applied to these people to become bail

for others, who paid him in proportion to the sums for which they were arrested; and, circumstanced as they were, it was seldom that he met a refusal; for, upon their making the least hesitation, he threatened to take them into custody, and convey them instantly to prison.

He provided genteel apparel for Jews, and other men in desperate circumstances, and encouraged them to commit perjury, by bribing them to swear themselves housekeepers and men of property, in order that their bail might be admitted.

Having supplied two men of most profligate characters, with genteel cloaths, they attended him to Westminster-hall, and there justified bail for sums to a considerable amount, though they were not possessed of property to the value of twenty shillings.

After the business, these three infamous associates adjourned to a tavern in Covent-garden; and, while they were regaling themselves, some of Sir John Fielding's officers took the two men who had justified bail, into custody, on a charge of highway-robbery.

They were convicted at the ensuing sessions at the Old-Bailey; and soon afterwards, Bolland, being a Sheriff's officer, attended them to Tyburn, where they were hanged in the very apparel that he himself had provided for them.

A publican in Cicil-street in the Strand, named Wilkinson, went into Lancashire, in the year 1768, upon a visit to his relations, leaving the care of his house to a female servant. Upon the landlord's return, he found, that two men had taken possession of his household goods and stock of liquors, under a warrant of distress. He asked by what authority they had made a seizure of his effects; and the reply was, that if he presumed to dispute their authority, they would knock out his brains, or put him to death in some other manner.

Wilkinson made application to Justice Kynaston, and made an affidavit that Bolland had no legal claim upon him. A warrant was granted for the recovery of Wilkinson's goods, but before it could be put into execution, the greatest part of them had been moved from the premises.

The following day Bolland caused Wilkinson to be arrested for five hundred and fifty pounds, which was falsely alledged to be a debt he had some time before contracted.

The unfortunate Wilkinson, being unable to procure bail for so considerable a sum, moved himself to the King's Bench.

The attorney employed by Wilkinson was an accomplice of Bolland's; and under the pretence of defending him against the machinations of that accomplished villain, he extorted from him his last shilling; and after the unhappy man had suffered a long imprisonment, in a most deplorable state of poverty, he was restored to liberty by virtue of an act of insolvency.

In the preceding part of this narrative, we have mentioned that Bolland formed a connection with a fellow-prisoner in the Fleet, through whose interest boudsmen were procured, when he a second time commenced officer to the sheriff of Middlesex.

Learning some time after, that this man had apartments elegantly furnished in the neighbourhood of Gray's-inn, he falsely swore a debt against him; and, in conjunction with one of his accomplices, who was a lawyer, sued out a judgment, and obtained a warrant of distress for the seizure of his effects, which were conveyed to Bolland's house.

The injured party applied to the court of King's Bench for redress: and attachments were issued against the delinquents; but before they could take effect, the attorney had absconded, and Bolland was in custody, charged with the capital offence for which he suffered; and therefore no redress was to be obtained.

A captain in the navy going a voyage, and not leaving his wife sufficiently provided with money, she contracted a debt to the amount of thirty pounds, for which she gave a note. The note not being paid when it became due, the creditor ordered Bolland to serve a writ upon the unhappy woman. After she had remained some days a prisoner in his house, he procured bail for her, on her paying him five guineas.

In a few days she was again taken into custody, Bolland urging, that upon making enquiry into her affairs, the bail deemed themselves not secure, and had surrendered her from motives of prudence.

Terrified at the idea of going to prison, she paid him ten guineas for procuring bail a second time; but he insisted on having a bond to confess judgment for the furniture of her house, as a collateral security. Being ignorant of the nature of the security proposed, she complied with the terms offered by the villain, who on the following day, entered upon judgment, and took possession of her effects.

Upon discovering that she had been made a dupe to the consummate art and villainy of Bolland, the unfortunate woman was driven almost to distraction, and while in that state of mind, she attempted to set fire to the house, in consequence of which a warrant was granted for apprehending her, and she was accordingly committed to Newgate.

In a short time the husband returned to England, and Bolland bribed an infamous woman to swear a false debt against him, in consequence of which he was arrested, and being in confinement at the time of his wife's trial at the Old-Bailey, she was deprived of that assistance he might have afforded her. She was convicted, and sentenced to suffer death; but her cause being espoused by a number of humane persons, they drew up an authentic state of her case, which was presented to the king, who was graciously pleased to grant her an unconditional pardon.

Bolland formed a connection with a prostitute, towards whom a sailor, then aboard, entertained a strong attachment. Upon the sailor's return, he gave three hundred pounds into the care of the woman, proposing at the same time to espouse her, and saying he meant to take a public-house in Wapping. The woman communicated the sailor's proposal to Bolland, and they formed a plan of defrauding him of his money.

By Bolland's direction she intimated to him, that three hundred pounds was not a sum sufficient to carry on the

trade of a publican with a prospect of success, and advised him to leave the money he had already acquired to her care, and make another voyage. The unsuspecting seaman complied, and in a short time after he had sailed Bolland got the three hundred pounds into his possession, and applied it to his own use.

Bolland's behaviour to the woman was for some time exceedingly kind; but he at length procured a fellow to charge her with a false debt; and being taken to prison, she survived only a short time, during which she laboured under the severest afflictions of poverty and disease.

The sailor, having completed his voyage, no sooner landed in England, than he hastened to the house where his mistress had resided; and having learnt the particulars of her conduct, vexation and disappointment had such an effect upon his mind, that the recovery of his reason was, for a long time judged to be doubtful.

Bolland being ordered, by an attorney in the city, to serve a writ on a colonel in his Majesty's service for one hundred pounds, he arrested the gentleman the next day, and was paid the debt and costs; but instead of delivering the money for the plaintiff's use, he declared that he had not served the writ. The attorney, however, soon learning that the debt was discharged, commenced a suit against the sheriffs; and the persons who had become sureties for Bolland were compelled to pay the hundred pounds, with full costs.

The colonel had neglected to take Bolland's receipt; and of this circumstance the villain determined to avail himself. He, a second time, arrested the gentleman for a hundred pounds; the action was bailed, and a trial ensued, in the course of which a witness swore, that he was present when the colonel paid Bolland an hundred pounds, and costs, in discharge of the writ. Hereupon the jury pronounced in favour of the colonel.

Though Bolland's character was notorious throughout the kingdom, he might, perhaps, have continued his depredations much longer, had not his infamous practices been exposed in the newspapers by the person whom we have

already mentioned his being acquainted with in the Fleet, and whose effects he seized in the neighbourhood of Grey's-inn, under a warrant of distress, obtained by swearing to a false debt.

When the sheriffs were informed of Bolland's villainy, they were highly exasperated against him, and suspended him from acting as their officer, and assigned the bail-bonds as security, by which the parties he had injured might obtain some recompence.

Bolland's avarice was so excessive, and his inclination to villainy so strong, that his being deprived of the power of following his usual practices proved the source of much uneasiness. He was advised to act under the Marshalsea court; but he rejected the proposal, alledging, that a compliance would *degrade* his character, after having long moved in so superior a line of life.

The office of upper city-marshal becoming vacant by the disease of Osmond Cook, Esq. Bolland determined to dispose of part of his infamously-acquired property, in the purchase thereof.

The place being put up for sale by auction, he became the purchaser for two thousand four hundred pounds. Having paid the deposit money, which was lodged in the chamberlain's office, he anxiously waited for the approbation of the court of aldermen, which was only wanting to give him that power of the citizens which he was predetermined to abuse.

A letter was addressed to the lord-mayor and court of alderman, exhibiting Bolland's character in all its horrid deformity: and proper inquiries being made, the facts appeared to be well founded; in consequence of which the court of aldermen refused him the place, and ordered the chamberlain to return the deposit money.

He declared that he would commence a suit at law against the court of aldermen for the recovery of damages; and when the recorder communicated to him the very strong reasons that had induced the court to deem him unqualified for the place of city-marshal, he behaved in a manner extremely reprehensible.

To contest the matter with the city he found not likely to produce him any advantage; and one of the sergeants at mace at that time resigning his office, he formed the resolution of purchasing his place, which was denied him, though he offered a sum considerably above the usual price.

The deposit-money still remained in the chamberlain's office, under an attachment taken out by his sureties, on account of their bail-bonds being assigned over for the benefit of the persons who had suffered through his iniquitous proceedings.

A man named Jesson had discounted a note for Bolland; some time after which they met at the George and Vulture tavern, in Cornhill, when the former desired the note might be redeemed. The other said, he then happened to be short of cash, but produced a note of hand for one hundred pounds, given by Mr. Bradshaw, offered to take up the other note, if Jesson would take Bradshaw's security, and return the overplus. To this Jessen agreed, and while he was counting the money, Bolland indorsed the note; which being observed by the other, he said he had no doubt as to the responsibility of Bradshaw, but that Bolland's name would render the note unnegotiable. Hereupon Bolland took a knife and erased all the letters of his surname, excepting the first, and in their room inserted *anks;* after which he delivered the note to Jesson.

On the following day Jesson requested a person named Cardineaux, to discount the note he had received from Bolland; and Cardineaux paid him fifteen pounds ten shillings on account, desiring him to call the next day for the balance.

The next Saturday, Cardineaux, Jesson, and Bolland, met at a tavern in Queen-street; when Cardineaux questioning Bolland respecting *Banks,* the name indorsed upon the note; he said Banks was a victualler, in the neighbourhood of Rathbone-place, in an extensive and reputable way of business. Cardineaux saying he was fully satisfied, paid Jesson the balance in his favour, in some small notes, and a draft upon his banker.

Cardineaux having occasion for cash, carried the note to his banker, who discounted it; and soon after Bradshaw was declared a bankrupt.

Cardineaux now applied to Jesson, desiring that, as Bradshaw had failed, he would provide money to take up the note when it became due: Jesson had recourse to Bolland; but he refused to take up the note, and even denied that Jesson had received it of him.

Cardineaux, Jesson, and Bolland met at the Edinburgh coffee-house the next day, when the former introduced a conversation respecting Bradshaw's note; in the course of which Bolland said, that his indorsement did not appear upon the note, and that it had not passed through his hands. Upon this, Cardineaux said, Jesson had mentioned his having altered the endorsement from Bolland to Banks; and Bolland then desired that all disputes might subside, and promised that the note should be discharged when it became due.

The note was delivered to a person named Morris, who shewed it to a gentleman of the law, and related to him the particulars of Bolland's conduct; in consequence of which a prosecution was resolved on.

Bolland being apprehended, a man was sent, in the name of Banks, to carry the money to Cardineaux, who gave a receipt for it, telling him that the note he had to redeem was in the possession of Morris, and would be detained in order to be produced at the Old Bailey as evidence against Bolland.

The prisoner being brought to trial, his council exerted their utmost abilities to prove that he had not committed forgery; but the jury found him guilty of the indictment. When sentence of death had been pronounced against him, the recorder pathetically exhorted him to employ the short time he had to live in preparing for eternity, and not to deceive himself in the expectation of a pardon, which there was not the slightest reason to suppose would be granted.

He, on the morning of his execution, acknowledged that he had been guilty of innumerable sins, but declared that

the fact for which he was to die, was not committed with a view to defraud.

The body of this malefactor was taken to Highgate in a hearse, and in the evening carried to an undertakers in Prince's-street, Drury-lane, whence it was conveyed to Bunhill-fields for interment.

"If proudly we our schemes extend,
"And grasp beyond the present hour,
"We find our straiten'd projects end,
"And own an universal Pow'r.

"A while we sport, a while lament,
"Fate checks the line, and we are gone;
"Dragg'd from our wonted element,
"To other worlds, untry'd, unknown."

WILLIAM FARMERY.

Executed at Lincoln, August 3, 1775, for the Murder of his Mother.

WHILE we sketch the shocking crime of this monster, we have some consolation in observing that, in our long researches into the baseness of mankind, he is the first we have met with, who, with long-lurking malice, shed the blood of his mother.

A subject so strangely horrid and unnatural we shall dismiss, by a bare recital of the shocking circumstance.

It appears that, among other undutiful acts, he had one morning given offence to his parent, for which he was justly reproached, whereupon he went out of her house, took the knife from his pocket, and deliberately whetted it till quite sharp.

Then returning with the murderous instrument in his hand, he found his unfortunate mother in the act of making his own bed.

Without uttering a word, he threw her down, and as a butcher kills a sheep, he stuck her in the throat, and there left her weltering in her blood, of which wound she died.

On his examination he confessed the fact, and said, that he had determined upon his mother's death three years ago; for, that he had treasured up malice against her, since she had corrected him for some trifling fault when a little boy.

In the prison of Lincoln, called the round-house, he declared, that when asleep there, he felt something move within him, (the tyrant conscience,) and that when he awoke he saw his mother's ghost upbraiding him for his foul deed.

He died amidst the execrations of a multitude of indignant spectators.

"Even you yourself, to your own breast shall tell
"Your crimes, and your own conscience be your hell."

DR. WILLIAM DODD,

Doctor of Divinity, Prebendary of Brecon, Chaplain in Ordinary to his Majesty, and Minister to the Magdalen Hospital.

Executed at Tyburn, June 27, 1777, for Forgery.

"But have I now seen death? Is this the way
"I must return to native dust? O sight
"Of terror foul, and ugly to behold,
"Horrid to think, how horrible to feel."

Paradise Lost.

THE apprehending of such a man as Dr. Dodd, on a charge of forgery, was a matter of surprise and conjecture, among all ranks of people. He stood high in estimation as a divine, a popular preacher, and an elegant scholar.

He was the promoter of many public charities, and of some others he may be said to have been the institutor. The Magdalen for reclaiming young women, who have swerved from the path of virtue; the Society for the relief of Poor Debtors, and that of the Humane Society, for the recovery of persons apparently drowned, owe their institution to Dr. Dodd. He was patronized by the King, and more immediately by Lord Chesterfield, and his church preferments were lucrative. It, however, appeared, that his expences out-ran his income, and for a supply of cash, he committed a forgery on his late pupil the Earl of Chesterfield.

Another singular circumstance in the life of Dr. Dodd was, his publication, a few years previous to his execution, of a sermon, intitled, "The frequency of capital punishments inconsistent with justice, sound policy, and religion." This, he says, was intended to have been preached at the Chapel-royal, at St. James's; but omitted on account of the absence of the court, during the author's month of waiting.

The following extract will shew the unfortunate man's opinion on this subject, while, perhaps, contemplating the very crime for which he suffered. He says,

"It would be easy to shew the injustice of those laws which demand blood for the slightest offences; the superior justice and propriety of inflicting perpetual and laborious servitude;* the greater utility hereof to the sufferer, as well as to the state, especially wherein we have a variety of necessary occupations, peculiarly noxious and prejudicial to the lives of the honest and industrious, and in which they might be employed, who had forfeited their lives and their liberties to society."

The method adopted in this forgery is also remarkable. He pretended that the noble lord had urgent occasion to borrow £4000, but did not choose to be his own agent, and begged that the matter might be secretly and expeditiously conducted.

* Dr. Dodd pleaded hard for life upon any conditions; and would have blessed God for the very terms of existence which he here points out for criminals.

The doctor employed one Lewis Robertson, a broker, to whom he presented a bond, not filled up or signed, that he might find a person who would advance the requisite sum to a young nobleman who had lately come of age.—After applying to several persons who refused the business, because they were not to be present when the bond was executed, Mr. Robertson, absolutely confiding in the doctor's honour, applied to Messrs. Fletcher and Peach, who agreed to lend the money. Mr. Robertson returned the bond to the doctor, in order to its being executed; and on the following day the doctor produced it as executed, and witnessed by himself. Mr. Robertson, knowing Mr. Fletcher to be a particular man, and who would consequently object to one subscribing witness only, put his name under the doctor's. He then went and received the money, which he paid into the hands of Dr. Dodd, £4000, and produced the bond.

Lord Chesterfield was surprised, and immediately disowned it. Upon this Mr. Manly went directly to Mr. Fletcher to consult what steps to take. Mr. Fletcher, a Mr. Innis, and Mr. Manly, went to Guildhall, to prefer an information respecting the forgery against the broker and Dr. Dodd. Mr. Robertson was taken into custody, while Fletcher, Innis, Manly, and two of the lord mayor's officers went to the house of the doctor in Argyle-street.

They opened the business—the doctor was very much struck and affected. Manly told him if he would return the money it would be the only means of saving him. He instantly returned six notes of £500 each, making £3000; he drew on his banker for £500,—the broker returned £100, and the doctor gave a second draft on his banker for £200, and a judgment on his goods for the remaining £400. All this was done by the doctor in full reliance on the honour of the parties, that the bond should be returned to him cancelled; but, notwithstanding this restitution, he was taken before the lord mayor, and charged as above mentioned.* The doctor declared he had no intention to defraud

* This was, at least, hard treatment; a conviction obtained through such means greatly diminishes its value to the public.

lord Chesterfield, or the gentleman who advanced the money. He hoped that the satisfaction he had made in returning the money, would atone for his offence. He was pressed, he said, exceedingly for £300 to pay some bills due to tradesmen. He took this step as a temporary resource, and would have repaid it in half a year. "My Lord Chesterfield," added he, "cannot but have some tenderness for me, as my pupil. I love him, and he knows it. There is nobody wishes to prosecute. I am sure my Lord Chesterfield don't want my life.—I hope he will shew clemency to me. Mercy should triumph over justice." Clemency, however, was denied, and the Doctor was committed to the Compter, in preparation for his trial. On the 19th of February, Dr. Dodd being put to the bar at the Old Bailey, addressed the court in the following words:

"My Lords,

"I am informed that the bill of indictment against me has been found on the evidence of Mr. Robertson who was taken out of Newgate, without any authority or leave from your lordships, for the purpose of procuring the bill to be found. Mr. Robertson is a subscribing witness to the bond, and, as I conceive, would be swearing to exculpate himself, if he should be admitted as a witness against me; and as the bill has been found upon his evidence, which was surreptitiously obtained, I submit to your lordships that I ought not to be compelled to plead on this indictment; and upon this question I beg to be heard by my counsel.

"My lords, I beg leave also further to observe to your lordships, that the gentlemen on the other side of the question are bound over to prosecute Mr. Robertson."

Previous to the arguments of the counsel, an order, which had been surreptitiously obtained from an officer of the court, dated Wednesday, February 19, and directed to the keeper of Newgate, commanding him to carry Lewis Robertson to Hick's-Hall, in order to his giving evidence before the grand inquest on the present bill of indictment: likewise a resolution of the court, reprobating the said

order; and also the recognizance entered into by Mr. Manly, Mr. Peach, Mr. Innis, and the right hon. the Earl of Chesterfield, to prosecute and give evidence against Dr. Dodd and Lewis Robertson, for the said forgery, were ordered to be read; and the clerk of the arraigns was directed to inform the court whether the name Lewis Robertson was indorsed as a witness on the back of the indictment, which was answered in the affirmative.

The counsel now proceeded in their arguments for and against the prisoner. Mr. Howarth, one of Dr. Dodd's advocates, contended, that not any person ought to plead or answer to an indictment, if it appears upon the face of that indictment that the evidence upon which the bill was found was not legal, or competent to have been adduced before the grand jury.

Mr. Cooper, counsel on the same side, followed this idea, and hoped that Dr. Dodd might not be called on to plead to the bill of indictment, and that the bill might be quashed. Mr. Buller likewise argued on the same side.—

The other counsel, employed for the prosecution, replied to these arguments with equal ingenuity and professional knowledge. It was now agreed that the trial should proceed, and the question respecting the competency of Robertson's evidence be reserved for the opinion of the Twelve Judges. Hereupon Dr. Dodd was indicted for forging a bond for the payment of 4000l. with intent to defraud, &c. and the facts already stated were sworn to by the respective witnesses. When the evidence was gone through, the court called upon the doctor for his defence, which was as follows:

"My Lords, and gentlemen of the Jury,

"Upon the evidence which has been this day produced against me, I find it very difficult to address your Lordships; there is no man in the world who has a deeper sense of the heinous nature of the crime for which I stand indicted, than myself. I view it, my lords, in all its extent of malignancy towards a commercial state, like ours, but,

my lords, I humbly apprehend, though no lawyer, that the moral turpitude and malignancy of the crime always, both in the eye of the law, and of religion, consists in the intention. I am informed, my lords, that the act of parliament on this head runs perpetually in this style, *with an intention to defraud.* Such an intention, my lords and gentlemen of the jury, I believe, has not been attempted to be proved upon me, and the consequences that have happened, which have appeared before you, sufficiently prove that a perfect and ample restitution has been made. I leave it, my lords, to you, and the gentlemen of the jury, to consider, that if an unhappy man ever deviates from the law of right, yet, if in the single first moment of recollection, he does all that he can to make a full and perfect amends, what, my lords, and gentlemen of the jury, can God and man desire further?

My lords, there are a variety of little circumstances too tedious to trouble you with, with respect to this matter. Were I to give a loose to my feelings, I have many things to say which I am sure you would feel with respect to me: but, my lords, as it appears on all hands, as it appears, gentlemen of the jury, in every view, that no injury, intentional or real, has been done to any man living, I hope that, therefore, you will consider the case in its true state of clemency. I must observe to your lordships, that though I have met with all candour in this court, yet I have been pursued with excessive cruelty; I have been prosecuted after the most express engagements, after the most solemn assurances, after the most delusive, soothing arguments of Mr. Manly; I have been prosecuted with a cruelty scarcely to be paralleled. A person avowedly criminal in the same indictment with myself has been brought forth as a capital witness against me; a fact, I believe, totally unexampled. My lords, oppressed as I am with infamy, loaded as I am with distress, sunk under this cruel prosecution, your lordships and the gentlemen of the jury, cannot think life a matter of any value to me. No, my lords, I solemnly protest, that death of all blessings would be the most pleasant to me after this pain. I have yet, my lords, ties which call upon

me—ties which render me desirous even to continue this miserable existence. I have a wife, my lords, who for twenty-seven years, has lived an unparalleled example of conjugal attachment and fidelity, and whose behaviour during this trying scene would draw tears of approbation, I am sure, even from the most inhuman. My lords, I have creditors, honest men, who will lose much by my death. I hope, for the sake of justice towards them, some mercy will be shewn to me. If, upon the whole, these considerations at all avail with you, my lords, and you gentlemen of the jury—if, upon the most impartial survey of matters, not the slightest intention of injury can appear to any one—and I solemnly declare it was in my power to replace it in three months—of this I assured Mr. Robertson frequently, and had his solemn assurances that no man should be privy to it but Mr. Fletcher and himself—and if no injury was done to any man upon earth, I then hope, I trust, I fully confide myself in the tenderness, humanity, and protection, of my country."

The jury retired for about ten minutes, and then returned with a verdict, that "the prisoner was guilty;" but at the same time presented a petition, humbly recommending the doctor to the royal mercy.

The opinion of the Judges was, that he had been legally convicted.

On the last day of the sessions Dr. Dodd was again put to the bar, when the clerk of the arraigns said,—

"Dr. William Dodd,

"You stand convicted of forgery—what have you to say why this court should not give you judgment to die according to law?

Hereupon Dr. Dodd addressed the court as follows:

"My Lord,

"I now stand before you a dreadful example of human infirmity. I entered upon public life with the expectations

common to young men whose education has been liberal, and whose abilities have been flattered; and when I became a clergyman, I considered myself as not impairing the dignity of the order. I was not an idle, nor, I hope, an useless minister: I taught the truths of Christianity with the zeal of conviction, and the authority of innocence.

My labours were approved—my pulpit began to popular: and I have reason to believe, that of those who heard me, some have been preserved from sin, and some have been reclaimed.—Condescend, my lord, to think, if these considerations aggravate my crime, how much they must embitter my punishment! Being distinguished and elevated by the confidence of mankind, I had too much confidence in myself, and thinking my integrity, whatsoever thought it, established in sincerity, and fortified by religion, I did not consider the danger of vanity, nor suspect the deceitfulness of mine own heart. The day of the conflict came, in which temptation seized and overwhelmed me. I committed the crime, which I entreat your lordship to believe that my conscience hourly represents to me in its full bulk of mischief and malignity. Many have been overpowered by temptation, who are now among the penitent in heaven! To an act now waiting the decision of vindictive justice, I will now presume to oppose the counter-balance of almost thirty years (a great part of the life of man) passed in exciting and exercising charity, in relieving such distresses as I now feel—in administering those consolations which I now want. I will not otherwise extenuate my offence, than by declaring, what I hope will appear to many, and what many circumstances make probable, that I did not intend finally to defraud: nor will it become me to apportion my own punishment, by alledging that my sufferings have been not much less than my guilt: I have fallen from reputation, which ought to have made me cautious, and from a fortune which ought to have given me content. I am sunk at once into poverty and scorn: my name and my crime fill the ballads in the streets; the sport of the thoughtless, and the triumph of the wicked! It may seem strange, my lord, that, remembering what I have lately been, I should still

wish to continue what I am! but contempt of death, how speciously soever it may mingle with heathen virtues, has nothing in it suitable to Christian penitence. Many motives impel me to beg earnestly for life. I feel the natural horror of a violent death, the universal dread of untimely dissolution. I am desirous to recompense the injury I have done to the clergy, to the world, and to religion, and to efface the scandal of my crime, by the example of my repentance: but, above all, I wish to die with thoughts more composed, and calmer preparation. The gloom and confusion of a prison, the anxiety of a trial, the horrors of suspense, and the inevitable vicissitudes of passion, leave not the mind in a due disposition for the holy exercises of prayer and self-examination. Let not a little life be denied me, in which I may, by meditation and contrition, prepare myself to stand at the tribunal of Omnipotence; and support the presence of that Judge, who shall distribute to all according to their works—who will receive and pardon the repenting sinner, and from whom the merciful shall obtain mercy! For these reasons, my lords, amidst shame and misery, I yet wish to live; and most humbly implore, that I may be recommended by your lordship to the clemency of his majesty."

Here he sunk down, overcome with mental agony, and some time elapsed before he was sufficiently recovered to hear the dreadful sentence of the law, which the Recorder pronounced upon him in the following words:

"Dr. William Dodd,

"You have been convicted of the offence of publishing a forged and counterfeit bond, knowing it to be forged and counterfeited; and you have had the advantage which the laws of this country afford to every man in that situation, a fair, an impartial, and an attentive trial. The jury, to whose justice you appealed, have found you guilty; their verdict has undergone the consideration of the learned judges, and they found no ground to impeach the justice of that verdict; you yourself have admitted the justice of it: and now the very painful duty that the necessity of the law imposes upon the court to pronounce the sentence of that law against you remains only to be performed. You appear

to entertain a very proper sense of the enormity of the offence which you have committed; you appear too, in a state of contrition of mind, and I doubt not have duly reflected how far the dangerous tendency of the offence you have been guilty of is increased by the influence of example, in being committed by a person of your character, and of the sacred function of which you are a member. These sentiments seem to be yours: I would wish to cultivate such sentiments; but I would not wish to add to the anguish of a person in your situation by dwelling upon it. Your application for mercy must be made elsewhere; it would be cruel in the court to flatter you; there is a power of dispensing mercy, where you may apply. Your own good sense, and the contrition you express, by publishing your hearty and sincere detestation of the offence of which you are convicted; and that you will not attempt to palliate or extenuate, which would indeed add to the degree of the influence of a crime of this kind being committed by a person of your character and known abilities; I would therefore warn you against any thing of that kind. Now, having said this, I am obliged to pronounce the sentence of the law, which is—That you Dr. William Dodd be carried from hence to the place from whence you came; that from thence you are to be carried to the place of execution, where you are to be hanged by the neck until you are dead." To this Dr. Dodd replied, "Lord Jesus receive my soul."

Great exertions were now made to save Dr. Dodd. The newspapers were filled with letters and paragraphs in his favour. Individuals of all ranks exerted themselves in his behalf; parish officers went in mourning from house to house, to procure subscriptions to a petition to the king; and this petition, which, with the names, filled twenty-three sheets of parchment, was actually presented. Even the lord-mayor and common-council went in a body to St. James's to solicit mercy for the convict.

As clemency, however, had been denied to the unfortunate Perreaus, it was deemed unadvisable to extend it to Dr. Dodd. This unhappy clergyman was attended to the place of execution, in a mourning coach, by the Rev. Mr. Villette,

ordinary of Newgate, and the Rev. Mr. Dobey. Another criminal, named John Harris, was executed at the same time. It is impossible to give an idea of the immense crowds of people that thronged the streets from Newgate to Tyburn. When the prisoners arrived at the fatal tree, and were placed in the cart, Dr. Dodd exhorted his fellow-sufferer in so generous a manner, as testified that he had not forgot the duty of a clergyman, and was very fervent in the exercise of his own devotions. Just before the parties were turned off, the doctor whispered the executioner. What he said is not ascertained; but it was observed that the man had no sooner driven away the cart, than he ran immediately under the gibbet, and took hold of the doctor's legs, as if to steady the body, and the unhappy man appeared to die without pain.

It is needless to comment upon the lamentations on the fate of such a man as we have described in Dr. Dodd.

During Dr. Dodd's confinement in Newgate, a space of several months, he chiefly employed his time in the exercise of his pen; and thereby has left the world many testimonies of a good heart, as well as great abilities.

The principal of these are his Thoughts in Prison, in five parts, from which we cannot doubt, but that our readers, in finishing our life of so eminent, yet unfortunate, a man, will be gratified in a few short extracts: "I began these Thoughts," says the unhappy man, writing in Newgate, under the date of the 23rd of April, 1777, after his condemnation, "merely from the impression of my mind, without plan, purpose, or motive, more than the situation of my soul.

"I continued them on a thoughtful and irregular plan; and I have been enabled wonderfully, in a state which in better days, I should have supposed would have destroyed all power of reflection, to bring them newly to a conclusion. I dedicate them to God, and the *reflecting serious*, among my fellow-creatures; and I bless the Almighty for the ability to go through them, amidst the tortures of this dire place, (Newgate) and the bitter anguish of my disconsolate mind! The thinking will easily pardon all inaccuracies, as I am

neither able nor willing to read over these melancholy lines, with a curious or critical eye. They are imperfect, but in the language of the heart; and had I time and inclination, might, and should be, improved. But—

(Signed) W. D.

The unfortunate author's "Thoughts on his Imprisonment" are thus introduced:

"My friends are gone! harsh on its sullen hinge
"Grates the dread door: the massy bolts respond
"Tremendous to the surly keeper's touch:
"The dire keys clang, with movement dull and slow,
"While their behest the ponderous locks perform:
"And fasten'd fine, the object of their care
"Is left to solitude, to sorrow left.

"But wherefore fasten'd? Oh! still stronger bonds
"Than bolts, or locks, or doors of molten brass,
"To solitude and sorrow could consign
"His anguish'd soul, and prison him, tho' free!
"For whither should he fly, or where produce
"In open day, and to the golden sun,
"His hapless head! whence every hateful scorn,
"On his bald brow its grinning infamy:
"And all in sportive triumph twines around
"The keen, the stinging arrows of disgrace."

After dwelling on the miseries of that dreary confinement, at sight of which he formerly started back with horror, while his bosom partner, (his wife) armed him with antidotes, when Christian calls brought him to that den of death, he adds,

"O dismal change! now not in friendly sort
"A Christian visitor, to pour the balm
"Of Christian comfort in some wretch's ear—
"I am that wretch myself! and want, much want,
"That Christian consolation I bestow'd;
"So cheerfully bestowed! Want, want my God,
"From thee the mercy, which, thou know'st my gladsome soul
"Ever sprang forth with transport to impart.

"Why then, mysterious Providence, pursu'd
"With such unfeeling ardour? Why pursu'd

"To death's dread bourn, by men to me unknown!
"Why—stop the deep question; it o'erwhelms my soul!
"It reels, it staggers! Earth turns round! My brain
"Whirls in confusion! My impetuous heart
"Throbs with pulsation not to be restrain'd!
"Why?—Where?—O Chesterfield, my son, my son!

Whether the writer is warranted in adopting the last words of David on Absalom, considering the wide difference of their situations, may be questioned; yet great allowance is to be made for him, circumstanced as he was; and so soon after his trial, he must have been more than man, not to have retained some resentment against his prosecutors, especially his pupil, Stanhope, Earl of Chesterfield, however innocent, however justifiable. If his lordship felt as a man, his situation, as an evidence, was truly pitiable.—We hope he did.

The unfortunate divine thus proceeds:

"Nay, talk not of composure! I had thought
"In older time, that my weak heart was soft,
"And pity's self might break it. I had thought
"That marble-eyeld Severity would crack
"The slender nerves which guide my reins of sense,
"And give me up to madness! 'Tis not so;
"My heart is callous, and my nerves are tough;
"It will not break; they will not crack; or else
"What more, just heaven? ives wanting to the deed,
"Than to behold—Oh! that eternal night
"Had in that moment screened from myself!
"My Stanhope to behold! Ah! piercing sight!
"Forget it; 'tis distraction: speak who can!
"But I am lost! a criminal adjudged!

This was pleading, that would most sensibly have touched the heart, had not the writer committed forgery, a crime never to be forgiven, on—this son—this Stanhope, Earl of Chesterfield!

JOHN DONELLAN, ESQ.

Executed at Warwick, April 9, 1784, for poisoning Sir Theodosius Boughton, Bart.

MR. Donellan had been captain in the army, and was the son of Colonel Donellan. At the age of twelve years he entered into the royal regiment of artillery; with part of which regiment he went to the East Indies in 1754. On his arrival there, he changed his service into the 39th regiment of foot; but, on that regiment being ordered home, he, with many other officers of the same regiment, had his Majesty's leave to remain in the service of the East India Company, without prejudice to their rank in the army. He then obtained a company, and certainly distinguished himself as a good soldier, being much wounded in the service, and, if his own account may be credited, was singularly instrumental to the taking of Mazulapatam. However, being appointed one of the four agents for prize-money, he condescended to receive some presents from some black merchants, to whom part of their effects had been ordered to be restored. For this he was tried by a court-martial, and cashiered. In the sequel, he purchased a share in the Pantheon, where he figured some time as master of the ceremonies. After a variety of applications, he at length obtained a certificate from the war-office that he had behaved in the East Indies "like a gallant officer;" in consequence of which he was put upon half pay in the 39th regiment. But notwithstanding the most strenuous memorials and petitions, representing his great services, and insisting that the offence for which he was broke, was of a civil nature only, not cognizable by a court-martial, he never could obtain a restoration into the Company's service. In June, 1777, he married Miss Boughton. On Friday, March 30, 1781, he was tried at the assizes at Warwick, for the wilful murder of Sir Theodosius Edward Allesley Boughton, Bart. his brother-in-law.

Mr. Powell, apothecary, of Rugby, deposed that he had attended Sir Theodosius Boughton, for two months before his death, on account of a slight venereal complaint.

On the Wednesday morning, he was sent for to Lawford-hall. He arrived there a little before nine. Captain Donellan accompanied him into Sir Theodosius's room. He had been dead near an hour. The witness saw no distortion, nor any thing particular. He continued some minutes in the room. Captain Donellan said that Sir Theodosius died "in convulsions." Being questioned what further conversation he had then with Mr. Donellan, he said that he could not recollect his particular words, but his general intent was to make him believe that "Sir Theodosius had taken cold." Lady Boughton deposed, that Sir Theodosius was twenty years old on the 3d of August last. On his coming of age, he would have been entitled to above 2000l. a year. On the event of his dying a minor, the greater part of his fortune was to descend to the sister, the wife of Mr. Donellan.

It was known in the family that Sir Theodosius was to take his physic the next morning. He used to put his physic in the dressing-room. He happened once to forget to take it; upon which Mr. Donellan said, Why don't you set it in your outer room? then you would not so soon forget it." After this he had several times the medicines upon his shelf over the chimney-piece in his outer room. On the evening of Tuesday, the 29th, about six o'clock, Sir Theodosius went a-fishing, attended only by one servant, Samuel Frost. She and Mrs. Donellan took a walk in the garden. They were there above an hour. To the best of her recollection she had seen nothing of Mr. Donellan after dinner till about seven o'clock, when he came out of the house door into the garden, and told them that "he had been to see them a-fishing, and that he would have persuaded Sir Theodosius to come in, lest he should take cold, but he could not." Sir Theodosius came home a little after nine, apparently very well. He went up into his own room soon after: and went to bed. He requested her to call him the next morning, and give him his physic. Ac-

cordingly, she went into his room about seven that morning, when he appeared to be very well. She asked him, "Where the bottle was?" he said, It stands there upon the shelf."

He desired her to read the label, which she accordingly did, and found there was written upon it, "Purging draught for Sir Theodosius Boughton. As she was talking to him, she omitted to shake the bottle. Observing that, he said, "Pour it back again, and shake the bottle." In doing this she spilt part of it on the table; the rest she gave him. As he was taking it, he observed, "it smelled and tasted very nauseous:" upon which she said, "I think it smells very strongly like bitter almonds." He then remarked, that "he thought he should not be able to keep the medicine upon his stomach."

Here a bottle was delivered to Lady Boughton, (containing the genuine draught) which she was desired to smell at, and to inform the court, whether it smelt at all like the medicine Sir Theodosius took. She answered in the negative. She was then desired to smell at another, (containing the draught with the addition of the laurel-water,) which she said had a smell very much like that of the medicine she gave to Sir Theodosius. Lady Boughton then proceeded with her evidence. In two minutes or a minute and a half, after Sir Theodosius had taken the draught, he struggled very much. It appeared to her as if it was to keep the draught down. He made a prodigious rattling in his stomach, and guggling; and these symptoms continued about ten minutes. He then seemed as if he was going to sleep, or inclined to dose. Perceiving him a little composed, she went out of the room. She returned about five minutes after, and to her great surprise, found him with his eyes fixed upwards, his teeth clenched, and foam running out of his mouth. She instantly desired a servant to take the first horse he could get, and go for Mr. Powell. She saw Mr. Donellan in less than five minutes after. He came into the room where Sir Theodosius lay, and asked her, "What do you want?" she answered, "She wanted to inform him what a terrible thing had happened; that it

was an unaccountable thing in the doctor to send such a medicine, for, if it had been taken by a dog, it would have killed him, and she did not think her son would live." He asked, "In what manner was Sir Theodosius, then?" She told him. He then asked her "where the physic bottle was?" She shewed him the two draughts. He took up one of the bottles, and said, "Is this it?". She answered, "Yes." He took it, and after rinsing it, emptied it into some dirty water that was in a wash-hand basen, she observed, "that he ought not to do that." She added, "What are you at? you shall not meddle with the bottles." Upon that he snatched up the other bottle, and rinsed it; then he put his finger to it, and tasted it. She said, "What are you about! you ought not to meddle with the bottles." Upon which he said, "I did it to taste it." But he did not taste the first bottle. Sarah Blundell and Catharine Amos came up into the room. The former is since dead. He desired Sarah Blundell "to take away the basen, the dirty things, and the bottles;" and he put the bottles into her hands. Her ladyship took the bottles from her, set them down, and bid her let the things alone. He then desired, "that the room might be cleaned, and the clothes thrown into an inner room." Her ladyship opened the door of the inner room. As soon as Sarah Blundell had put the clothes into that room, Mr. Donellan, while the witness's back was turned, put the bottles into her hand again, and bid her take them down; and was angry she had not done it at first. This circumstance Sarah Blundell told her, for all that she herself knew of it in fact was, that the bottles were taken out of the room. Some time afterwards, her ladyship went down into the parlour. Mr. and Mrs. Donellan were there. The prisoner, in the witness's presence, said to his wife, that "her mother had been pleased to take notice of his washing the bottles, and that he did not know what he should have done, if he had not thought of saying he put the water into it to put his finger to it to taste." The witness this turned away from him to the window, and made no answer; upon which he repeated the same. As she still made no answer, he desired his wife to ring the bell, in

order to call up a servant; when the servant came, he ordered him to send in the coachman. When he came, the prisoner said, "Will, don't you remember that I set out of these iron gates at seven o'clock this morning?" "Yes, Sir," said he. "And that was the first time of my going out; I have never been on the other side of the house this morning: you remember that I set out there this morning at seven o'clock, and asked for a horse to go to the wells?" "Yes, Sir." Mr. Donellan said, "then you are my evidence." The servant answered, "Yes, Sir." She did not recollect that the prisoner made any other observation. She then said, that Mr. Donellan received a letter from Sir William Wheeler, desiring the body might be opened. He shewed her his answer to this letter. She told him, he had better let it alone, and not send such a letter as that; but she did not tell him the reason of her disliking it. He replied, "it was necessary to send an answer, and he would send it." She afterwards attended before the coroner and the jury in order to be examined. Mr. Donellan was present. She mentioned to the jury the circumstance of the prisoner's rincing the bottles. Being returned to Lawford-hall, the prisoner said to his wife before the witness, that she had no occasion to have told the circumstance of his washing the bottles: she was only to answer such questions as were put to her; and that question had not been asked her. Being asked whether Mr. Donellan did not endeavour to account to her for her son's death, she answered, that, when the things were removed, in order to be put into the inner room, he said to the maid, "Here, take his stockings; they have been wet; he has catched cold, to be sure: and that might occasion his death." On that she examined the stockings, and there was no mark or appearance of their having been wet. In answer to some further questions, she denied that she or any of the family had ever declined eating of the same dishes that Sir Theodosius did.

Mr. Donellan, indeed, had recommended to her not to drink out of the same cup, because he was affected with a venereal disorder; not to touch the bread he did, because

there might be arsenic about his fingers, as he used to put arsenic for his fish.

Catharine Amos, cook to Lady Boughton, deposed, that she was called up stairs to the room where Sir Theodosius lay. She confirmed her lady's evidence with respect to the effects of the draught upon the deceased. She saw Mr. Donellan the day the body was opened. He said, "there was nothing the matter: it was a blood-vessel had broke, which had caused Sir Theodosius's death."

About a fortnight after Mr. Donellan brought her a still that had been washed, and desired her to put it into the oven to dry, that it might not rust.

The Rev. Mr. Newsam deposed, that he saw Captain Donellan at Lawford-hall the Saturday preceding Sir Theodosius's death: that the captain informed him Sir Theodosius was in a very ill state of health; that he had never got rid of the disorder that he had brought with him from Eaton, but rather, in his opinion, had been adding to it; that he had made such frequent use of mercury, inwardly and outwardly, that his blood was a mass of mercury and corruption.

Mr. Kerr, surgeon of Northampton, deposed, that he attended Sir Theodosius when he was at Mr. Jones's. He really saw no disorder. There was a small wart or excrescence, very immaterial indeed. It was so slight that he did not think it a subject of medicine at all. He ordered him some lotion to wash it with, and dissuaded him from the use of medicine.

Dr. Rattray, of Coventry, deposed, that in consequence of an anonymous note, desired him to bring Mr. Wilmer with him, in order to open the body of Sir Theodosius Boughton: they went together, and met Mr. Bucknell, Mr. Powell, and Mr. Snow, in Newbold churchyard. Mr. Bucknell opened the body.

Here the witness proceeded to describe the external appearances of the body, and its appearances in the dissecting. He was then asked whether, if he had heard the evidence of Mr. Powell and Lady Boughton, he could, from that evidence, totally independent of the appearances he had been

describing, form a judgment of the death of Sir Theodosius? He answered, that exclusive of these appearances, he was of opinion, from the symptoms that followed the taking the draught, that it was poison, and the certain cause of his death. Being desired to smell at the bottle, and asked what was the noxious medicine in it, he said it was a distillation of laurel leaves, called laurel water. Here he entered into a detail of several experiments on animals, tending to shew the instantaneous and mortal effects of the laurel-water. He knew nothing in medicine that corresponded in smell with that mixture, which was like that of bitter almonds. He further said, that the quantity of laurel-water contained in the bottle shewn to him, was sufficient to be the death of any human creature: and that the appearances of the body confirmed him in his opinion, that the deceased was poisoned, so far as, upon the viewing a body, so long after the death of the subject, one could be allowed to form a judgment upon such appearances.

Mr. Wilmer confirmed the evidence of Dr. Rattray. He was clearly of opinion that Sir Theodosius's death was occasioned by the poisonous draught administered to him by his mother.

Dr. Ashe, of Birmingham, was of opinion, from the symptoms described, that the deceased died by poison. If the laurel-water were distilled strong enough to collect the essential oil, a tea-spoonful of it would destroy animal life in a few seconds; and he believed a strong poison might be made from bitter almonds.

Dr. Parsons, professor of anatomy at Oxford, was of opinion, that Sir Theodosius died by poison, and that poison was laurel-water.

Mary Lyntons deposed, that she had been servant to Lady Boughton about two or three months. She left her place above a month before Sir Theodosius died. When she lived at Lawford-hall, Mr. Donellan used frequently to distill roses. He kept the still in what was called his own room, which was not that he slept in. He only slept in this room when Mrs. Donellan lay in. At that time it was left open, but at all other times was locked.

Francis Amos, gardener to Lady Boughton, deposed, that he was with Sir Theodosius the whole time he was fishing, the night before he died. Mr. Donellan was not there. The evening after Sir Theodosius died, the prisoner came to him in the garden, and said, "Now, gardener, you shall live at your ease, and work at your ease; it shall not be as it was in Sir Theodosius's days: I wanted to be master before, but I have got master now, and I shall be master." [illegible]

Two or three days after Sir Theodosius died, he brought him a still to clean; it was full of wet linen. He said he used the linen to kill fleas. The witness had gathered lavender for him to distill. In the garden there were laurels, bays, and laurus-tines.

On the morning that Sir Theodosius died, Mr. Donellan came to him, and bid him get a couple of pigeons directly. He answered, "there were none fit to eat." The prisoner replied, "it will make no odds if they are not, for they are for Sir Theodosius. We must have them against the doctor comes, poor fellow! he lies in a sad agony now with this d—d nasty distemper; it will be the death of him."

As soon as the witness went into the house with the pigeons, he met his lady and Mrs. Donellan at the door.—They were wringing their hands, and said, "It is too late now, he is dead."

William Grove, one of the coroner's jury, deposed, that on the examination of Lady Boughton, [illegible] that "Captain Donellan minced the bottle, he and the captain catch her by the gown, and give her a twitch."

John Dashyshire deposed, that he had been a prisoner in Warwick gaol for debt; that Mr. Donellan and he had a bed in the same room for a month or five weeks. He remembered to have had a conversation with him about Sir Theodosius's being poisoned. On his asking him whether the body was poisoned or not, he said, "There was no doubt of it." The witness said, "For God's sake, captain, who could do it?" He answered, "It was among themselves, he had no hand in it." The witness asked, "Whom he means by themselves?" He said, "Sir Theodosius himself, Lady Boughton, the footman, and the apothecary."—The witness replied, "Sure, Sir Theodosius could not do it

himself:" "He said, "He did not think he did." The witness answered, "The apothecary could hardly do it; he would lose a good patient; the footman could have not the least interest in it; and it was unnatural to suppose that Lady Boughton would do it." He then said, "How covetous Lady Boughton was; she had received an anonymous letter the day after Sir Theodosius's death, charging her plump with poisoning him; that she called him, and read it to him, and she trembled; she desired he would not let his wife know of that letter, and asked him if he would give up his right to the personal estate, and to some estates of about 200l. a year belonging to the family." The conversation was about a month after the captain came into the gaol. At other times he had said, "That he was innocent; it was impossible he could do a thing that never was in his power."

This being the chief evidence, the prisoner, in his defence, pleaded a total ignorance of the fact, and several respectable characters bore testimony of his integrity. The jury, however, found him guilty, and he received sentance of death.

At seven o'clock next day, he was carried to the place of execution, in a mourning coach, followed by a hearse and the sheriff's officers in deep mourning; as he went on he frequently put his head out of the coach, desiring the prayers of the people around him.

On his arrival at the place of execution, he alighted from the coach, and ascending a few steps of the ladder, prayed for a considerable time, and then joined in the usual service, with the greatest appearance of devotion; he then, in an audible tone of voice, addressed the spectators in the following terms:—"That as he was then going to appear before God, to whom all deceit was known, he solemnly declared, that he was innocent of the crime for which he was to suffer; that he had drawn up a vindication of himself, which he hoped the world would believe, for it was of more consequence to him to speak truth than falsehood, and he had no doubt but that time would reveal the many mysteries that had arisen in his trial."

After praying fervently some time, he let his hankerchief fall, a signal agreed upon between him and the executioner, and was launched into eternity. When the body had hung the usual time, it was put into a black coffin, and conveyed to the Town-hall to be dissected.

WILLIAM WARD,

(The notorious Stage-fighter,)

Convicted of Manslaughter, June 5, 1789, fined and imprisoned.

BOXING, says a British writer, which is the setting the most worthless of the human species to batter each other to mummy, to break jaws, to knock eye-balls out of their sockets, to flatted the nose, beat out teeth, or to dash each other on the ground, with such dexterity as that they shall never rise again, if not a royal sport, is, at least, a princely entertainment, and manifests the exalted taste of its patrons!

Of the subject of boxing, in his own country, says the American geographer, Dr. Morse, "When two boxers are wearied out with fighting and bruising each other (in which encounters they kick and bite, as well as strike,) they come, as it is called, to close quarters, and each endeavours to twist his forefingers into the ear-locks of his antagonist. When these are fast clenched, the thumbs are extended each way to the nose, and the eyes gently turned out of their sockets. The victor, for his expertness, receives shouts of applause from the sportive throng, while his poor eye-less antagonist is laughed at for his misfortune." This in America, is GOUGING.

Mr. Janson, in his late work, intitled, "The Stranger in America," commenting upon the above passage, in the work of this descriptive writer on his own country; after adducing many instances of gouging, observes, "But let

us conclude this odious subject which never should have stained these pages, had not the author alluded to, (Morse) proclaimed to the world the cruel and unnatural facts, by observing, that these barberities appear not to have the genuine growth of American soil. No such practice would be endured by an English mob; no such disgraceful revenge ever entered the breast of a Creek, a Cherokee, or a Kickapoo Indian."

The sight is not the only sense endangered in these brutal contests in England; and of this, the ruffian, Crib, still bears about his battered body a living proof.

Life has oftener, than in the murder now in question, been lost in prize-fighting, as we shall shew before we have done with the boxing of William Ward.

The barbarous and unlawful practice of fisticuffs, which the fools of fashion dignify by the name of pugilism; since the rude days of Broughton, had, until this period, happily become nearly out of use. Its renewal shews, that there are periodical returns of fashion, even in amusements of cruelty.

The first public renewal of this species of cruelty, was a battle between two low fellows, a Jew and a Christian, in outward form, but in heart, as Dr. Morse, the American geographer, stiles some of his countrymen, Nothingarians, that is, those who have not the fear of God before their eyes, through any medium of religion.

The fisticuffings between Humphries and Mendoza, was a treat for such fellows as may be daily seen lounging in Bond-street. Peers and pick-pockets, *cheek-by-chowl*, accompanied some score miles to witness the bloody spectacle which these two ruffians made of each other. As at a cock fight, they made their bets, which, as between the "grey and pile," varied in proportion to the rounds, or knock-down blows, the failing eye, or the quantity of blood spilt.

The roads to this scene of inhumanity were thronged with all descriptions of idle fellows; some mounted upon the high-mettled racer, and others kicking, and whipping miserable jack-asses, that they too might be in at the death, or giving in, as they term it, of the most exhausted of the

two ruffian candidates for the gaining of public applause in prize-fighting.

Even royalty, which must ever be the head of every fashion, was often in the motley mob collected to witness these disgraceful exhibitions; but, bad as are our youth, they will still become worse by following such pernicious examples.

The Prince of Wales, in one of these mortal conflicts, found one of the combatants made a corpse at his feet, upon the stage of pugilistic fight.

The prince, notwithstanding this, and other ill-judged propensities, beyond the other five of the royal stock, possesses a superior trait of those qualities we look for in an exalted station.

The heir-apparent to the British crown turned pale away from the horrid sight, and made a vow never more to behold so savage and dangerous a contest, and to which he has conscientiously adhered.

Of the worst description of vagabonds, who run from one bloody stage to the other, was the fellow who now properly comes under our notice. His origin mean, his understanding totally uncultivated; arrogant of his savage prowess, vicious and cruel shall he be proved. Thus qualified he was at the pugilistic exhibitions. He had often fought, and was the inglorious conqueror; but, in his turn, was shamefully vanquished, and to the great satisfaction of all who wished the downfall of such a desperado, by the fighting Jew, who had been considered his inferior, in the despicable attainment.

William Ward, as we have already said, was once a pugilist, high in renown among the fashionable amateurs of that degrading pursuit.

He, with several mates of his infamous calling, had monopolized the outside of a stage-coach, journeying to Stilton, seventy-one miles from London, to attend another rencontre, between Jew Mendoza and Christian Humphries.

They had not proceeded farther than Enfield, where, as the coach stopped to change horses, the bravado of Ward

stimulated a drunken blacksmith, named Edwin Swain, to challenge him to combat.

Now, though there is no policy in the owner of a blood horse, or a game cock, to match with a dunghill, or an animal that had toiled in harness, yet Ward unmanly accepted the foolish dolt's invitation, and for a while, they did buffet each other with lusty sinews; but art soon overcame the lusty blows of the hammer on the anvil; for they were chiefly spent in the empty air; in fact, the blacksmith could not hit the trained bruiser. He therefore soon yielded the palm of victory, and retired into the public-house, before which the coach and crew waited the event of this shameful contest.

The professed pugilist followed, and upon his ungarded antagonist dealt his fists, until the object of his cruelty was actually beaten to death.

Ward, conscious of the magnitude of his offence, hired a post-chaise, and with his companions, set off to return to London, where they could best conceal themselves from offended justice; but they were pursued and committed to prison.

The coroner's jury were divided in opinion, seven finding the crime wilful murder, and nine manslaughter; and from the circumstances attending the horrid deed, Ward was not admitted to bail; though he boasted that he could find security for his appearance, to any amount. A poor mechanic, a useful member of society, might linger in gaol, without a friend to bail him, while such ruffians have their aiders, abettors, and protectors, in men of property, rank, and title!

On the 5th of June, 1789, William Ward was arraigned at the bar of the Old Bailey, for the murder of Edwin Swain, and, after a long trial, found guilty of manslaughter, fined one shilling, and sentenced to be imprisoned three months in Newgate.

The evidence did not amount to the proof of actual malice, as the deceased first provoked the contest.

Mr. Justice Ashurt, who tried Ward, expressed his de-

reprobation of the inhuman and unlawful practice of boxing, and declared it to be a disgrace to a civilised nation.

At the expiration of his sentence, and when about to be liberated, Ward had the unparalleled effrontery to offer a public challenge to fight at the next Newmarket meeting. "Is this," says a monthly publication for September, 1789, commenting on this subject, "the effect of the wholesome severity of the law? Or are these gross violations of humanity to proceed, till more homicides are committed?"

In the year 1809, John Jackson, late a prize-fighter, being apprehended on a warrant, for assaulting Mr. James Savage, of Walsingham-place, St. George's-fields, in his defence at the public office in Bow-street, said, "that on the day on which he was charged with the assault, the 18th of September, at Covent Garden Theatre, he dined with General Gwynn, Colonel M'Donel, Captains Barkley and Hanbury, and others, at the Piazza Coffee-house; and *they went together* to the Theatre!!!

ROBERT WATT, and DAVID DOWNIE,

Convicted of high treason, at Edinburgh, with particulars of the execution of a traitor in Scotland.

WE are now arrived at an alarming period at the modern history of our country. Just engaged in the ruinous war with France, which continued with increasing obstinacy for nearly twenty years. Perplexed by treason at home, and threatened with invasion by our enemy, the nation was in a critical situation.

Confederate bodies of dissatisfied men, were formed from London to Edinburgh, pursuing a systematical course of treason, and corresponding with each other, until Government stretched out his powerful arm to crush the traitors.

Many writers charge ministry with oppression, but at such a time as this, better, surely, to support the constitution, corrupt as may be its administration, than suffer its subversion, and see ourselves thrown into that anarchy and confusion, sought for by such men as we shall soon bring before the reader.

Watt and Downie were principals in the Scottish Conspiracy, and were convicted of the crime of high-treason. Their trial brought to light the particulars of the plot, to overthrow the constitution of Great Britain; and from which we shall, therefore, make a copious extract.

Their trial came on before the High Court of Justiciary, at Edinburgh, on the 3rd of September, 1794, when Mr Amstruther stated the case on the part of the Crown. He began by observing, that such was the peculiar happiness of this country, that we had been unaccustomed with the law of treason for nearly half a century. It was not his intention, if he possessed the powers, of inflaming the passions of the Jury against the prisoner: his object, was to give a plain, a dry narrative of the facts, and a succinct statement of the law.

The laws of treason were now the same in England and Scotland, and the duty of the subjects of both kingdoms should be the same. Scotland, in this instance, had reaped much benefit by the Union, as her laws of treason, precious to that period, were much more severe. The act of Edw. III. stated three distinct species of treason: 1. Compassing and imagining the death of the king; 2. Levying war against him; 3. Assisting his enemies. He would not trouble the Court or Jury with the two last: the single species of treason charged in the present case, was the compassing and imagining the death of the king; which was defined by the conceiving such a design; not the actual act, but the attempt to effect it. But the law which thus anxiously guarded the sovereign, was equally favourable to the subject: for it does not affect him until that imagination is fully proved before "men of his condition."

An overt act of treason is the means used for effectuating

the purpose of the mind: it is not necessary to prove a direct attempt to assassinate the king: for the crime is the intention, and the overt act the means used to effect it.

He wished not that these sentiments might be held as the opinion of counsel: they were founded on the construction of the ablest writers, Chief Justices Foster, Hale, &c. and, whatever could be proved against the prisoners, which may endanger the king's person, was an overt act of high treason, in the language of the ablest writers.

After explaining more fully the distinct species of treason which applied to the present case, Mr. Anstruther said, he trusted that if he could prove any design thereby the king's person is in danger, that was an overt act; if he was wrong, the judges would correct him.

He would now state the facts on which these principles of law were to be laid. The present conspiracy was not that of a few inconsiderable individuals; it had risen, indeed, from small beginnings; from meetings for pretended reforms. It had been fostered by seditious correspondence, the distribution of libellous writings, and had, at last, risen to a height, which, but for the vigilance of administration, might have deluged the country, from one end to the other, with blood.

The proceedings of these societies, calling, or rather miscalling themselves Friends of the People, were well known; their first intention was apparently to obtain reform; but this not answering their purpose, they proceeded to greater lengths. He meant to detail the general plans and designs formed among the seditious, and then to state how far the prisoners were implicated in them.

The first dawning of this daring plan was in a letter from Hardy, Secretary to the London Corresponding Society, to Skirving, the Secretary to the Friends of the People, here.

He writes, that as their petitions had been unsuccessful, they must use separate and more effectual measures. Skirving answered, and admitted the necessity of more effectual measures; that he foresaw the downfal of this government, &c. Here also was the first notice of a convention; a measure which it is no wonder they were fond

of, when they saw its effects in a neighbouring kingdom (France,) They meant not to petition Parliament, but to proceed in their own plan, and supersede the existing government of the country: and, in that case, the king's life was put in danger.

Soon after, a convention, a body unknown to the laws of this country, met; and in this there would have been little harm, had their views been peaceable; but their objects were avowedly unconstitutional, and their intention to carry on their plans by force, and thus virtually to lay aside the prerogative of the king.

This convention accordingly met, using all the terms, regulations, &c. adopted by the convention of another country, in which it might be said there was in reality little harm, but it was surely a marking proof of their designs. They meant not to apply to Parliament; for whenever that was mentioned, they proceeded to the order of the day. They resolved to oppose every act of Parliament, which they deemed contrary to the spirit of the Constitution, and were determined to sit, until compelled to rise by a force superior to their own.

The Convention indeed, was dispersed by the spirited conduct of a magistrate, (Provost Elder,) whose merit every one was forward to acknowledge, and to whose active exertions the country was so much indebted, but another Convention was attempted to be called, who were to frame their own laws, and to be independent of the legislature; or, as they say, independent of their plunderers, enemies, and oppressors, meaning the King, Lords, and Commons: their resolutions will prove that they meant to create a government of their own, to do away the authority of what they called hereditary senators, and packed majorities; all which prove the intention of putting the king's life in danger.

But what, it may be said, is all this to the prisoner at the bar? who, surprising as it may appear, about two years ago wrote letters to Mr. Secretary Dundas, offering to give information as to certain designs of the Friends of the People. These letters were answered by that right honour-

able gentleman with that propriety which has ever marked his public conduct. The prisoner then corresponded with the Lord Advocate, the particulars of which would appear, as his lordship was subpœned.

Since September 1793, this correspondence has ceased. Previous to that period, the prisoner was not a member of the Society of Friends of the People, nor of the British Convention; but his accession since to its measures, and the calling of another Convention, could be substantiated. The Convention, indeed, though dispersed, did not cease to exist.

In fact, a Committee of Correspondence, of which the prisoner was a member, was instituted, the object of which was to carry into effect the views of the last British Convention, and to elect delegates to a new one. Mr. Watt attended this Committee, and coincided in its measures, which were expressly to supersede the legislature.

The prisoner had moved for a Committee of Union; and another was appointed called the Committee of Ways and Means, of both which he was a member. This last was a Secret Committee, kept no minutes, was permanent, and empowered to collect money to support "the great cause." Mr. Downie was appointed treasurer, and it was to be the medium through which all instructions and directions were to be given to all Friends of the People throughout the kingdom, and was to procure information of the number of those that would spare no exertions to support the great cause.

They corresponded with Hardy, respecting the calling of a new Convention, which was to follow up the purposes of the old one; and, as the prisoner was present, he was in this way coupled with the British Convention.

Their next attempt was to debauch the minds of the soldiers, and to excite them to mutiny; for which purpose a paper was printed, and circulated among a regiment of Fencibles then at Dalkeith.

This paper, which was evidently seditious, would be brought home to the prisoner, for the types from which it was printed were found in his house, and a copy traced from him into the hands of a soldier.

The next charge to be brought against the prisoner, and the Committee of which he was a member, was a distinct and deliberate plan to overturn the existing government of the country.

The plan proposed was this :—A fire was to be raised near the Excise-Office, (Edinburgh,) which would require the attendance of the soldiers in the castle, who were to be met there by a body of the Friends of the People, another party of whom were to issue from the West Bow, to confine the soldiers between two fires, and cut off their retreat; the Castle were next to be attempted; the judges (particularly the Lord Justice Clerk) were to be seized; and all the public banks were to be secured.

A proclamation was then to be issued, ordering all the farmers to bring in their grain to market as usual; and enjoining all country gentlemen to keep within their houses, or three miles from them, under penalty of death. Then an address was to be sent to His Majesty, commanding him to put an end to the war, change the ministers, or take the consequences. Such was the plan of the Committee of Ways and Means, as proposed by the prisoner.

Previous to this, it should have been mentioned, that all the Friends of the People were to be armed; for which purpose, one Fairley was dispatched round the country to levy contributions, and disperse seditious pamphlets; for which purpose, he got particular instructions from the prisoner.

Reports were spread through the same channel, that the Goldsmith's Hall Association were arming, and that it was necessary for the Friends of the People to arm also, for they would be butchered either by them or the French.

It would be proved, that the prisoner gave orders to Robert Orrock to make 4,000 pikes; and also orders to one Brown for the same purpose. These were to be used for completing the great plan; and Fairley's mission was to inform the country of these intended proceedings. Another representative body was also formed, called "Collectors of Sense and Money," who were to have the distribution of the pikes, and to command the different parties. In one instance, a person had been desired to carry some pikes to the Col-

lectors; who made answer, that he could not do it, for the Collectors were not to be trusted yet.

Mr. Anstruther then recapitulated shortly the different heads, and concluded an elaborate and most clear and distinct pleading, of more than two hours and a half, by requesting the jury to lay no farther stress on what he had said than it should be proved, as it was meant merely as a clue to the evidence which should be brought before them.

The first witness called, was Edward Lauzon, a king's messenger. Upon being asked if he was employed last summer to search the house of one Hardy, in London, Mr. Hamilton, counsel for the prisoner, objected to the question, and insisted that, before proving any other matter whatever, some direct overt act committed by the prisoner must be proved.

Mr. Anstruther answered, that, before proving the prisoner guilty of being concerned in a particular plot or conspiracy, it was surely necessary first to prove that such plot or conspiracy existed. In the trials in the year 1745, before any particular overt act was attempted to be proved against any of the accused, there was always evidence adduced to prove the existence of a rebellion.

The court over-ruled the objection. The witness then swore, that he seized several papers in Hardy's house, particularly a letter signed by one Scirving, and several others: also a printed circular letter, signed, "T. Hardy, Secretary." These letters the witness produced.

Mr. William Scott, Procurator Fiscal for the shire of Edinburgh, gave an account of the seizure of Scirving's papers in December, 1793, and of the after-disposal of them. He produced several of these papers, particularly one intituled, "Minutes of Debate in the General Committee; also several papers that were found in the lodgings of Margarot, Gerald, and Sinclair. Mr. Scott swore to his being present at the dispersion of the Convention.

The letter by Scirving and Hardy being authenticated by Mr. Lauzun, who swore he found it in Hardy's possession, was then read.

John Taylor, of Fleet-street, London, was then called. He swore he was a member of the London Corresponding Society, and was acquainted with Mr. Hardy, who was Secretary to that Society. Being shewn several letters and papers, he believed them to be Hardy's hand-writing.—The Society consisted of several divisions, about fourteen, he thought, in number; there were several Committees, particularly a grand one, which consisted of a member from each division, a Committee of Secresy, and a Committee of Emergency. The latter was formed in May last. He attended a general meeting of the Society at the Globe Tavern, on the 20th of January last, about one thousand were present. So great was the crowd, that the floor gave way, and the meeting adjourned to the Assembly Room, where the secretaries read the resolutions, which were afterwards printed. An adddress, founded on these resolutions, was afterwards carried by a shew of hands. One of the resolutions was, that the motions of Parliament were to be watched over; and if troops were to be brought into the country, or the Habeas Corpus Act suspended, &c. that force ought to be repelled by force.

The witness produced a copy of these resolutions, which he got from a person of the name of Moir, in the presence of Hardy. He saw several other copies about the room. The witness was also present at another meeting, held at Chalk Farm (about two miles from London) on the 14th of April last. The meeting was of the same nature as the former; there were about three thousand persons present, and, among others, Mr. Hardy.

Henry Goodman, clerk to Mr. Wickham, London, was present at the meeting at Chalk Farm, and heard the resolutions read. The resolutions now shewn to him were, as far as he recollected, the resolutions passed at the meeting. He understood that it was the intention of the Society to arm themselves, to protect the members in the same way that the National Convention of France had been protected by the citizens of Paris; that he heard this talked of in different meetings.

Alexander Atchison was a member of, and Assistant Secretary to the British Convention, and wrote part of their minutes: he deposed, that the papers now shewn in Court to him, he had often seen before; that he took down the minutes as accurately as he could; that he recollected Mr. Calandar making several motions in the Convention; and particularly an amendment to a motion which was referred to a Committee. This amendment was read: it related to the agreement in the Convention to continue permanent, and watch over the motions of Parliament, &c. &c. That he knew Mr. Watt, the prisoner; and was, together with him, a member of the Committee of Union. That Committee met in January last, the Convention being previously dispersed in December.—The purpose of this Committee was to keep up a spirit of union among the Friends of Reform, and that he was sent there by the Division of Cannongate.

The great object of the Committee was to obtain the same kind of reform sought for by Mr. Pitt and the Duke of Richmond, about twelve years ago. That he was a member also of the Committee of the Ways and Means which was instituted for the purpose of paying past debts, and to defray the expence of future delegates to another Convention, to be held somewhere in England, which second Convention was meant for the same purpose as the British Convention, namely, obtaining the Reform first proposed by Pitt and Richmond; that he has often had conversations with different persons, on the subject of Reform; that he recollected having seen a pike in the house of George Ross, in the presence of several blacksmiths, which was shaped like the head of an halbert. Being asked whether he ever gave a different account of what he had now sworn at any other place, he believed he never did; if he did it, it must be contrary to truth, and this he should say, though he should be gullotined for it.

Mr. W. Erskine, also counsel for the prisoners, here stopped the witness, who was removed. He said, that it was an established point in the law of Scotland, that a witness could not be affected by any thing he had before said

relative to the present subject of his examination; nor could it hurt him in any degree.

Mr. Anstruther said, that this did not exist in the law of England.

The Lord President observed, that it appeared to him there was really a discrepancy in the law in this respect.

Mr. Anstruther here said, that to put an end to the dispute, and, as Atchison had conducted himself in such a manner, he would, so far from laying any stress on his evidence, request the jury to throw out of their minds every syllable he had used.

George Ross authenticated the minutes of Convention, and other papers; knew the prisoner at the bar, and had seen him at his own house.

Mr. Sheriff Clerk deposed as to the pikes being brought from Watt's, and the fount of types, of which he had got an impression taken in the precise state they came from Watt's house.

[Paper read—An Address to the Fencibles.]

James Sommeville, a printer, deposed as to the casting off the impression from the types.

William Watson, of Dalkeith, once saw Watt at his own house, but could not say whether the prisoner at the bar was the man. Remembered a Fencible regiment in Dalkeith, which was about the time he met with Mr. Downie, who carried him to Watt's, to get a hand-bill about the Fencibles, which he had heard of, and was curious to see, but could not get it there; and went to one Kennedy, on the South Bridge, from whence he received several copies.

The Lord Advocate said, that, except those (Downie and Stock,) against whom bills were already found, he meant to bring no other person to trial for treason.

Arthur M'Ewan, weaver, of Leith, a member of the British Convention, and also of the Committee of Ways and Means, of which last Watt was a member, deposed, that, at one of their meetings, Watt read a paper, proposing to seize

the judges, bank, &c. to decoy the soldiers by a fire, &c. but did not know what was to be done with the persons seized, nor whether it was to be done in the day or night. Commissioners were to be appointed to take charge of the cash, but knew not what was to follow this. Deposed as to the proclamation to corn-dealers, and country gentlemen, and the address to the king to put an end to the war, &c. Watt asked him to accompany him to Orrock's to whom he (Watt) gave orders to make pikes as fast as he could, as he had 4000 to send to Perth, besides what he had to distribute in Edinburgh. Orrock made a draft of one: a gentleman's servant asking what was their use, was told, that they were for mounting a gate. Knew that Fairley was sent into the country, and had visited a number of places; that he reported Paisley to be in a state of great readiness, but did not know what that meant. The witness disapproved of these proceedings, and would consent to nothing that would disturb the peace, or shed the blood of his countrymen; and he thonght the plan proposed would have that tendency. Watt produced, at one of the meetings, a paper containing what was called fundamental principles, which he knew but little of.

William Bonthorn was a member of the Society of the Friends of the People, but had resolved to withdraw, as things had passed he disapproved of. Watt, at one of their meetings, read a paper, of which he did not remember the particulars, as it confused him. The paper contained something about seizing the castle, raising an alarm by fire, &c. upon the supposition that numbers could be got to assist them. Remembered nothing of particular persons being intended to be seized; but thought the bank was mentioned; this paper frightened him much; it mentioned also the seizing the guard-house; recollected no numbers that were mentioned to carry this plan into effect. M'Ewan shewed an opposition to it. The circular letter of the Committee was written by Mr. Stock.

Mr. Sheriff Clerk deposed as to the finding sundry papers in Watt's house, one the drawing of a pike, and the paper sworn to by Atchison in the Sub-Committee.

John Fairley, of Broughton, a delegate to the Convention, deposed, that his constituents met after the dissolution of that body. Heard that pikes were making, and Watt informed him of this, or rather shewed him one.—Watt said, that they were only intended for self-defence, and that none were to get them but those who applied and paid for them. Measures of government might drive them to despair, and cause bloodshed; but Watt said, he hoped there would be none, as the obnoxious or active against the cause of the people would be imprisoned.—The soldiers would be glad of freedom, and deputations might be sent them. Watt proposed to shew the arms to the collectors, which the witness objected to, as hazardous. In going to the West country, a parcel was left for him by Watt, containing paper for distribution, which he left at Stirling, St. Ninian's, Kirkintulloch, Glasgow, Paisley, &c.

On his return to Edinburgh, he went to the Committee of Ways and Means; that Watt, Downie, and M'Ewan were there, to whom he reported the result of his journey. Returned the instructions to Watt; they mentioned, he recollected, something about a plan, and Britain being free, Downie paid him the expences of his journey.

Dr. Forrest, at Stirling, gave an account of Fairley's calling on him, shewing him his written instructions, &c. In these instructions there was a blank, which he supposed was to be filled up "arms." Shewed him the figure of a weapon like a halbert, which was preparing for defence, and that these weapons could be furnished by a person who he understood was about Edinburgh. Something passed about arming the people, and disarming the soldiers.

Robert Orrock, smith, first heard arms mentioned in G. Ross's house in March last. In April Watt applied to him to make a pike, and he brought one to Ross's, where Watt and other members of the committee were, and he left it at Watt's desire. In May, Watt desired him to make more of that pattern, and some of a different kind. While making them, a person (Martin Todd) called and shewed a form of a pike, which he refused to make. Brown also called, and told him he was making pikes for Watt, and that 1000 were

wanted; but spoke of this as a secret, which alarmed the witness. The extent of his order was five dozen, which were ordered by Watt, but paid for by Downie. He was told, if inquired about, to say they were for the top of a gate: never had an order for pikes before; but had made one for his own defence, without being employed by any person.

Martin Todd, smith, deposed as to calling on Orrock, to inquire about the pikes.

William Brown, a smith, said one Robertson called on him to bespeak several spears of a particular shape, for Watt; and at another time, he made fourteen spears for Mr. Watt, like mole spears. Recollected the conversation with Orrock, but did not say that such a number of pikes would be wanted.

John Fairley was re-examined, at his own desire. He recollected Watt saying, that the banks and public offices were to be seized. The most active against them were to be imprisoned, and couriers sent to the country to announce this. The Magistrates of Edinburgh were particularly spoken of.

Walter Miller, Perth, sent money to Downie, for relief of distressed patriots in the cause of reform; never had authority for supposing that the new Convention had any object but reform by legal means.

Here the evidence of the Crown was closed.

Defence of Watt.

Mr. W. Erskine, junior counsel for the prisoner, said, that as the Court had sat so long, he would not trouble them with many words. He would rest his defence upon the correspondence carried on between the Right Hon. Henry Dundas, the Lord Advocate, and the prisoner, by which it would appear, that he had attended the meetings of the Friends of the People, with no other view than a design to give information of their proceedings. A letter from the prisoner to Mr. Secretary Dundas was read, which stated in substance, that, as he did not approve of the dangerous principles which then prevailed in Scotland, and was a friend

to the Constitution of his country, he thought it his duty to communicate to him, as a good subject, what information he could procure of the proceedings of those who styled themselves Friends of the People. From an acquaintance with several of the leading men among them, he flattered himself he had this in his power; and then went on to mention some of the names of those leading men in Perth, Dundee, and Edinburgh. In the first of these places, he said, he had been educated, and had resided in the two last for a considerable number of years. It concluded with enjoining secrecy.

To this letter an answer was returned which was also read. It acknowledged the receipt of Mr. Watt's, and, after expressing a hope that things were not so bad as he represented, desired him to go on, and he might depend upon his communications being kept perfectly secret.

Another letter from Mr. Dundas to Mr. M'Ritchie, the prisoner's agent, was next read, in answer to one from Mr. M'Ritchie, requesting of Mr. Dundas what letters he had of the prisoner's. The answer bore, that all the letters he had received from Mr. Watt had been delivered to the Lord Advocate.

Mr. Sheriff Clerk authenticated the letter of Mr. Dundas.

The Lord Advocate being sworn, in exculpation, he gave a distinct account of the transactions which he had had with the prisoner. He had conversed with him several times at his own lodgings; and he had at one time given him some information which he thought of importance. This was respecting the disaffection of some dragoons at Perth, which upon inquiry, turned out to be ill-founded.

In March, 1793, his lordship said, an offer had been made to him to disclose some important secrets, provided he would give the prisoner 1000l. This he absolutely refused. However, some time after, the prisoner having informed him that he was much pressed for money to retrieve a bill of 30l. his lordship, who was then in London, not wishing he should be distressed for such a small sum, sent him an order for the payment of it. All this happened previous to the meeting

of the Convention; since which time, at least since October last, he did not recollect seeing or having any connection with the prisoner.

Mr. Hamilton contended, that the prosecutor had failed in bringing the most criminal part of it home to the prisoner. He dwelt long on a correspondence between Mr. Dundas and Mr. Watt. He said, the prisoner had not deserted the service in which he had engaged; but had not had an opportunity of exercising it until the very time he was apprehended.

He contended, that he was a spy for government; and it was well known that a spy was obliged to assume not only the appearance of those whose secrets he meant to reveal, but even to make part in their proceedings, in order to prevent a discovery. He alluded to spies in armies, and mentioned a melancholy circumstance which happened to one last war, a gentleman with whom he had the honour of being acquainted. A spy in an army, he said, was obliged not only to assume the uniform of the enemy, but even to appear in arms; and it would be exceedingly hard indeed, if taken in a conflict, that he should be punished for discharging his duty. He concluded with hoping the jury would bring in a verdict, finding the charges not proved.

The Lord President, after clearly defining the laws of treason summed up the evidence, narrating and explaining the various parts with much candour; leaving it entirely to the jury to return such a verdict as their judgment should direct.

The jury withdrew about half-past five o'clock in the morning, and in about five minutes, returned with a verdict —Guilty.

The trial lasted nearly twenty-two hours.

The jury were upwards of forty minutes considering the case of Downie: the majority agreeing among themselves that he was guilty, they reconciled themselves to this verdict at last, by unanimously consenting to recommend him to mercy, which they did in a very strong manner.

Shortly after the following awful sentence of the court was passed upon these unfortunate men.

"Robert Watt and David Downie, you have been found guilty of High Treason by your Peers. The sentence of the Court is, therefore, that you be taken from the place whence you came, from thence you shall be drawn on a sledge to the place of execution, on Wednesday, the 15th of October, there to hang by your necks till you are both dead; your bowels to be taken out, and cast in your faces; and each of your bodies to be cut in four quarters, to be at the disposal of his Majesty: and the Lord have mercy on your souls!"

The unfortunate prisoners received the dreadful sentence with much firmness and composure, and were immediately conducted to the castle.

Robert Watt was ordered for execution, but a respite came for David Downie: as soon as it was intimated to Downie, he started, as from a dream, and exclaimed, "Glory to God, and thanks to the king, for his goodness: I will pray for him as long as I live." After which, tears of gratitude flowed. He was transported for life.

About half past one o'clock on the 15th of October, the two junior magistrates, with white rods in their hands, white gloves, &c. the Rev. Principal Baird, and a number of constables, attended by the town officers, and the city-guard lining the streets, walked in procession from the Council-chamber to the east-end of Castle-hill, when a message was sent to the sheriffs in the Castle, that they were there waiting to receive the prisoner.

The prisoner was immediately placed in a hurdle, with his back to the horse, and the executioner, with a large axe in his hand, took his seat opposite him, at the further end of the hurdle.

The procession then set out from the Castle, the sheriffs walking in front, with white rods in their hands, white gloves, &c. a number of county constables surrounding the hurdle, and the military keeping off the crowd. In this manner they proceeded, until they joined the magistrates, when the military returned to the Castle, and then the procession was conducted in the following order:

The City Constables;
Town Officers, bare-headed,
Bailie Lothian and Bailie Dalrymple;
Rev. Principal Baird;
Mr. Sheriff Clerk and Mr. Sheriff Davidson;
A number of County Constables;
THE HURDLE,
Painted black, and drawn by a white Horse;
A number of County Constables.

The city-guard lined the streets, to keep off the multitude.

When they had reached the Tolbooth door, the prisoner was taken from the hurdle, and conducted into the prison, where a considerable time was spent in devotional exercise.

The prisoner then came out upon the platform, attended by the Magistrates, Sheriffs, Principal Baird, &c. Some time was then spent in prayer and singing psalms; after which the prisoner mounted the drop-board, and was soon launched into eternity.

When the body was taken down, it was stretched upon a table, and the executioner, with two blows of the axe, severed off the head, which was received into a basket, and then held up to the multitude, while the executioner called aloud, "There is the head of a traitor, and so perish all traitors."

The body and head were then placed in a coffin, and removed.

Never was any execution conducted with more solemnity and order. The procession advanced with slow step, and the prisoner exhibited a most melancholy spectacle. He held a bible in his hand; his eyes remained in a fixed posture, upwards, and he was not observed to make one movement, or cast a single glance upon the multitude. He was much emaciated, and his countenance so pale, that while on his way to the place of execution, he appeared almost lifeless; but when he came upon the platform, he seemed to

be somewhat revived, and behaved himself, during the awful solemnity, with due resignation and humble fortitude.

The impression the situation had made upon himself, seemed truly astonishing, as those who had ever seen him before, declared, they could not have known him to be the same person. His appearance was dirty, muffled up in a great coat; and he shewed signs of peculiar agitation and remorse for the crime for which he was then going to suffer.

The surrounding multitude, dufing the execution of the awful proceeding, did not discover any other emotion than is usual upon occasions of any other executions. The town-guard, attended by the constables, lined the streets.

Robert Watt was born in the shire of Kincardine, and was, at the time of his execution, about thirty-six years old. He was the natural son of a Mr. Barclay, a gentleman of fortune and respectability; but like most other children of illegitimate parentage, he was brought up and educated under the name of his mother. He was, at about ten years of age, sent to Perth; where he received a very good education. Being sixteen he engaged himself with a lawyer at Perth; but being of a religious disposition, he was disgusted at this profession, and soon withdrew from the desk of his master.

Soon after he went to Edinburgh, and engaged as a clerk in a paper-warehouse, where he lived happily and respectably for some years. His only complaint was the deficiency of salary.

Having a desire to share in the profits, as well as the toils, of the business, he wrote to his father, and prevailed upon him to assist him with some money, to enable him to procure a partnership with his master.

He then made proposals to the above purpose; these were, however, rejected by his employer. Being provided with money, he entered into the wine and spirit trade. His success in business continued very promising, until he was almost ruined by the commencement of the war. At this period, his acquaintance with the Friends of the People commenced.

Several other leaders of this conspiracy in Scotland were

seized. Of those who were convicted, the Reverend T. Fishe Palmer, William Skirving, Thomas Muir, Maurice Margoret, and Joseph Gerald, who were transported to Botany-bay. Numbers, to avoid the avenging arm of justice, fled to the United States of America, where, with impunity, they disseminated their treason, and poured out vollies of abuse against their native land.

These renagadoes were no sooner landed in a new world, than they rallied round the footstool of faction there, by commencing editors of, and scribblers in, newspapers, which swarm in that boasted land of liberty. In their filthy columns, they extolled the murderous revolutionists of France, and laboured to incense Americans against their own injured country. It is fit these apostates should be pointed at. John Thompson, of Scotland, printed one of these inflammatory sheets, at Richmond, in Virginia: Matthew Duane, of Ireland, another in Philadelphia. John Dinmore, late an apothecary, at Walton, in Norfolk, planted his literary annoyance,* in Columbia, the seat of the American government, and, for his extraordinary scurrility against England, the Gallic-American President, Jefferson, made him State Printer, and heaven forefend, a justice of the American Peace. Cooper, the bosom friend of the hoary apostate, Priestley, the bitterest foe we had in the new

* This inflammatory sheet he called "The Expositor." In order to give the reader an idea of the infamy of the abandoned scribblers, we shall quote a note from Mr. Janson's History of America. Speaking of Dinmore, says Mr. Janson, "Among the vile scurrility of his Expositor, last summer, was the following: After noticing the introduction of the American minister, Mr. Monroe, to the king, he adds, 'For once an honest man appeared at the Court of St. James's.'

Another paper, printed by Mr. S. Snowden, at the same place, and preferring England to France, makes this observation upon the paragraph, 'It is no doubt, difficult for an honest man in the Doctor's (apothecary Dinmore's) estimation of the word, to get admission there: yet, he cannot have forgotten, that he himself was within a cable's length of having his name announced to his Britannic Majesty—not by Sir Stephen Cotterell, but by the Recorder of London, and Ordinary of Newgate, as joint Masters of the Ceremonies.'

world, so greatly misused the press, that the country of his adoption threw him into a prison.

Inferior scribblers against Britain, are almost without number.

JOHN TERRY AND JOSEPH HEALD,

Executed at York, March 21, 1803, for Murder.

(A most wicked and barbarous Case, and more extraordinary Execution.)

IN this man we find another sad instance of early depravity, and, like all cruel people, a more than common horror of yielding up life, as an atonement certainly due for shedding innocent blood—a precept of holy writ. His voluntary confession, mysterious conduct, and resistance of his fate at the gallows, renders this account dreadfully interesting.

John Terry and his fellow-apprentice, Joseph Heald, were found guilty of the wilful murder of Elizabeth Smith, aged sixty-seven years, at Flaminshaw, near Wakefield, in Yorkshire.

The deceased, though in humble life, bore an excellent character, and had maintained herself by keeping cows, and selling their produce.

Having had the misfortune to lose two of her cows, she was left nearly destitute, but by the humane assistance of her neighbours, she was enabled to purchase one cow; and a son, who lived at Leeds, sent her eighteen guineas afterwards to buy another, but desired her not to purchase it before Fog-time.

On her receiving the eighteen guineas, it was immediately made known amongst her neighbours.

T. Shaw and S. Linley, constables, proved the confession of Terry; which was, "that he and Heald met together the night on which the murder was committed, and parted at ten o'clock, to meet again at the deceased's about one

o'clock. They met. That he (Terry) assisted Heald in getting into a window, up one pair of stairs; that he afterwards set up something against the house, and climbed up after Heald. That after several blows had been struck at the deceased, Heald took a razor, and Terry held her head. In a short time he had his hand cut, and advised Heald to desist, as he had got enough, and would then go to the door, and look if all was safe. Upon his return he found that Heald had got the deceased into an adjoining room, and was beating her over the head with the tongs; upon which he told him to desist, and come away, and there would be no more about it." Also, that when Heald was brought into the room, after Terry had made the confession, Heald said to him, "Terry, I thought thou wouldst not have deceived me so, thou knowest I was not with thee;" to which he answered, "Thou knowest there is a God above who knows all." A second time Heald asked him, why he should deceive him, and said, "Thou hadst better lay it upon somebody else." To which he replied, "I will not hang an innocent man: thou knowest there were but us two, and God for our witness."

The judge summed up the evidence to the jury, and, as it appeared there was no doubt of Terry's guilt, he dwelt principally upon the circumstantial evidence against the prisoner, Heald, and pointed out, with great perspicuity, the shades of evidence against Heald.

The jury declared both the prisoners guilty; accordingly the judge, in the most solemn manner, pronounced sentence of death upon them.

During the trial, and at the time the awful sentence was passed, Terry behaved with prudence, though apparently affected, but Heald appeared perfectly ignorant of his situation, often looking round the court, and, to the last part of his trial, shewed great hardiness in his behaviour.

Their execution was fixed for Monday, March 21, when early in the morning, the Rev. Mr. Brown, the Ordinary, attended the prisoners in their cell, in order to administer the sacrament, when Terry informed him that Heald was innocent; on which Mr. Brown stated to them the leading

facts that were proved against them upon their trial, and referred to Terry's own confession of the manner in which they had perpetrated the murder.

Terry said, "that he had been induced to make that confession, as he had been told that he should thereby save his own life; but he now declared Heald to be innocent, and that he would not be hanged with an innocent man."

In consequence of this declaration, the ordinary thought it his duty to inform the judge of this extraordinary circumstance; but his lordship was so perfectly satisfied of Heald's guilt, that he ordered the sentence to be put in execution. his lordship, however, humanely sent his marshall, Mr. Wells, to attend the prisoners, with a discretionary power to respite the execution, should any circumstances appear to him, respecting Heald, that would justify the measure.

Mr. Wells was convinced, from the conversation that passed, that Terry was not speaking the truth, and in consequence they were left to their fate.

Again Terry, in proceeding from the cell to the drop, exclaimed aloud, that Heald was innocent, and that they were going to hang an innocent man, and appeared to have worked himself up to a state of frenzy and distraction.

On their being brought on the platform, a scene of more brutal stubbornness was never witnessed, than that which was exhibited by this young offender: for as soon as he got on, he went forward to the front, and exclaimed in a loud voice, "They are going to hang an innocent man (meaning Heald); he is as innocent as any of you!" On uttering of which, he immediately made a sudden spring, in order to get down the ladder, which he certainly would have effected, had he not been laid hold of by the clergyman. While they were pulling him back, he again exclaimed, "It was ME that murdered the woman: I said it was Heald; but I did so to save my own life; and would not any of you hang an innocent man to save your own life?" These words he afterwards repeated, adding, "Don't hang Heald; if you do, I shall be guilty of *two* murders."

The clergyman then proceeded to do his duty; to which

Terry paid no attention, but continued very clamorous, notwithstanding the entreaties of Heald, not to deprive him of the benefit of the prayers; but Terry was not to be restrained; and it was from the utmost exertions of five or six men, that he could be dragged to the drop, and the rope forced over his head; during which he tore off his cap, and at the moment when the platform sunk, which put an end to the life of Heald, Terry made a spring, and threw himself against a rail of the scaffold, got his foot upon the edge of a beam, and caught the corner post with his arm, by which he supported himself; and in this dreadful situation he continued for about a minute, till he was forced off by the executioner, and launched into eternity, with his face uncovered; a circumstance never, perhaps, known in the annals of a York execution.

The probable reason for Terry's wretched behaviour was, either to delay the execution, or, by declaring an innocent man was going to suffer, to excite the compassion of the numerous spectators, and induce them to attempt a rescue. However, as Heald met death with resignation, and never once attempted to assert his innocence, which he had done before his condemnation, we may justly conclude, from his silence and submission, that his share in this bloody transaction was great—that notwithstanding his improper conduct during his trial, he was now duly impressed with the magnitude of his sins, and died, as became him—a penitent Christian:—while his unfortunate accomplice, whose previous behaviour had been prudent and exemplary, misapplied the few last moments which were allotted to him in this life, and departed with unavailing lies in his mouth!

JAMES HADFIELD,

For Shooting at his Majesty at Drury-Lane Theatre, on Thursday, May 15, 1800.

THE trial of James Hadfield for high treason, came on in the Court of King's Bench, on Thursday, the 26th of June.

The indictment being read, the prisoner pleaded "Not Guilty," and the Attorney-General addressed the Jury at considerable length.

Mr. Joseph Craig was the first witness examined: he is a musician, and saw Hadfield above all the rest, with a pistol in his hand, pointed at his Majesty; it was instantly fired and dropped down: he assisted at dragging the prisoner over the rails, into the music-room. Mr. Sheridan and the Duke of York came in; he said, God bless your Royal Highness, I like you very well, you are a good fellow. This is not the worst that is brewing."

Mr. John Holroyd sat next the prisoner, spoke to him, and remarked he was a pitiful object, saw a pistol presented across his face, and immediately discharged; he assisted in securing him.

Mr. J. Parkinson, a musician, was next examined: he confirmed what the first witness deposed; and being asked if the situation was a good one for firing at his Majesty, he replied, that the prisoner could not have chosen a better.

Mr. Wright, the fourth witness, was in the first row next the orchestra; he heard the report of a pistol as his Majesty entered his box, turned round, and caught the prisoner by the collar. A young lady who sat behind, immediately pointed to the ground, where he saw and picked up the pistol, which he produced in Court.

Miss Elizabeth Ormeston deposed, that she sat on the third row, but could not say whether it was at the first or second bow to the audience from his Majesty the pistol was fired, but immediately he threw down the pistol.

Mr. Law, one of the counsel for the prosecution, here desired that his Roval Highness the Duke of York might be called; upon hearing which, the prisoner, in a paroxysm of enthusiasm, cried out, "God bless the Duke, I love him." The court seeing his agitation, immediately gave directions that he should be permitted to sit down; and Mr. Kirby, the keeper of Newgate, (who all the time sat next to him) told him, he had permission of the Court to sit down, which he did, and remained composed during the remainder of the trial.

The Duke of York was present at the examination; remarked at the time that he knew the prisoner, that he had been one of his orderly men. The prisoner said, "He knew his own life was forfeited; he regretted the fate of his wife only; he would be only two days longer from his wife;" said, "the worst is not come yet." His Royal Highness said, the prisoner appeared to be perfectly collected. After his Majesty had retired, his Royal Highness directed a search to be made in the king's box, where a hole was discovered, evidently made by the impression of a shot, fourteen inches from his Majesty's head. It had perforated the pillar. In searching below, some slugs were found; by the smell they had been recently fired off. Mr. Erskine asked his Royal Highness, if the most loyal and brave men were not usually selected to be the orderly men? His Royal Highness answered, that the most tried and trusty men were appointed as orderly men. When the prisoner was asked what could induce him to commit so atrocious an act, he said, he was tired of life, and thought he should have been killed.

The evidence for the prosecution being closed, Mr. Erskine addressed the jury at considerable length.

Major Ryan, of the 15th Light Dragoons, in which the prisoner was a private. Herculus M'Gill, private in the same regiment, and John Lane, of the Guards, all knew the prisoner, and deposed to different acts of his insanity.

Mr. Cline, surgeon: Dr. Crichton, physician; and Dr. Letherne, surgeon to the 15th regiment, as professional gentlemen, gave testimony to their belief of the prisoner's insanity.

Captain Wilson, and Chris. Lawton, of the 15th Light Dragoons; David Hadfield, brother to the prisoner; Mary Gore, sister-in-law to the prisoner; Catherine Harrison, and Elizabeth Roberts, detailed different acts of insanity, particularly on the day previous to, and on which he committed the crime for which he stood indicted.

The prisoner was found to be insane.

Ravillac, who stabbed King Henry IV. of France, while

in his coach, and surrounded by his guards, was tortured to death in the following inhuman manner:

At the place of execution his right hand, with which he gave the fatal blow, was put into a furnace flaming with fire and brimstone, and there consumed. His flesh was pulled from his bones with red-hot pincers; boiling oil, rosin, and brimstone, were poured upon the wounds, and melted lead upon his navel. To close the scene of horror, four horses were fastened to the four quarters of his body, which were torn asunder.

He declared to the last moment, that he had no accomplices, and that the only motives which impelled him to act the regicide was, because the king tolerated two religions in France.

His parents were banished their country, never more to return, on pain of immediate death; and his whole kindred, nay, every individual bearing the name, were ordered to renounce it; so that the name of Ravillac should never more be heard of in France.

JAMES BRODIE,

A BLIND MAN,

Was indicted at the Assizes for the County of Nottingham, for the Murder of a Boy, named Robert Selby Hancock, who acted as his Guide.

IT appeared in evidence, that John Robinson, a warrener, went into his warren on Sunday, the 25th of March last, about two o'clock in the afternoon; he saw a person, as he supposed, fishing in a rivulet: that on approaching near to him, he found him lying on his belly, upon which he called out, "Hallo! what are you doing?" The prisoner said, he was a blind man, and had been wandering about all night, and had lost his guide, the deceased, who, he said was dead; that he had staid by him till he had taken his last gasp; that

on being asked where the boy was, he said, about half a mile from thence; that the witness went to seek the boy with two men, and they found him about three miles from the place where the blind man was; that when they found the boy, he was covered all over with ling, or fern, as much as would fill a cart: that then he was carried to Mansfield, the town near the spot, and on the boy being examined by a surgeon, the scull was found fractured in two places, head very bloody, and torn at the ear, and the shoulders and arms beat to a jelly.

The blind man was found with a stick, with which it is supposed he committed the murder.

The prisoner, in his defence, said, that they had lost their way; and that the boy got up into a tree, with his assistance, to see if there was any road near; that the boy fell from the tree, and hurt himself very much; that just before, he had tumbled over a log of wood: that finding the boy was hurt, and that he could not stand, he covered him over with ling, in order to keep him from the cold; and that he staid by him till he was dead.

Not one word of this defence was admitted by the jury, who instantly found him guilty, and execution, in the short time allowed to murderers, followed, at which time the culprit of darkness was but twenty-three years of age.

GEORGE FOSTER,

Executed at Newgate, January 18, 1803, for the murder of his wife and child, by drowning them in the Paddington Canal; with a curious Account of Galvanic experiments on his body.

THE unfortunate George Foster, whose conviction, as stated by the Lord Chief Baron in charging the jury, was most entirely upon circumstantial evidence, was put upon

his trial, on the horrid charge above mentioned, at the Old Bailey, January 14, 1803.

The first witness was Jane Hobart, the mother of the deceased, who stated, that she lived in Old Boswell-court, and that for some time back, the deceased and her infant lived with her, but that she generally went on the Saturday nights to stay with the prisoner, who was her husband; that she left the witness for that purpose a little before four o'clock, on the evening of Saturday the 4th of December, taking her infant child with her; and that she never heard of her from that time until she was found drowned in the Paddington canal. The prisoner had four children by her daughter—the one above alluded to, another was dead, and two were in the workhouse at Barnet.

Joseph Bradfield, at whose house the prisoner lodged, in North-row, Grosvenor square, saw the deceased with him on the Saturday night of the 4th of December, and they went out together about ten o'clock on the Sunday morning. The prisoner returned by himself between eight and nine o'clock at night, which did not appear remarkable, as the deceased was not in the habit of sleeping there, except on the Saturday nights. This witness did not consider them to be on very good terms, arising, as he believed, from the deceased's wishing to live with the prisoner: she used to call at his lodgings once or twice in the week, besides the Saturdays, on which nights she always waited to get some money from him. On the Sunday following, the prisoner and another person went with the witness to see his mother at Highgate, and on their return, the prisoner asked if his wife had been at his lodgings; but which, on his cross-examination, he admitted might arise from his being surprised at her not coming as usual.

Margaret Bradfield, wife of the last witness, corroborated his testimony, with the addition, that on the Wednesday she saw the child which she was positive was the same that the deceased had taken out with her on the Sunday morning.

Eleanor Winter, who kept what was usually called the Spotted Dog, but which is now called the Welbourne Green

Tavern, between two or three miles from Paddington, along the canal, swore that she perfectly recollected the prisoner coming to her house on the morning of the 5th of December, with a woman, and a child with him: they staid at her house, where they had some beef-steaks, beer, and two glasses of brandy, till near one o'clock.—While they were there, she observed the woman to be crying, and heard her say, she had been three times there to meet a man who owed her husband some money, and that she would come no more. This witness had seen the body of the woman that was found in the canal, and she was certain of its being the same woman, who was with the prisoner at her house, on the above morning.

John Goff, waiter at the Mitre Tavern, about two miles further on the canal, related, that the prisoner, with a woman and a child, came to their house some time about two o'clock on Sunday the 5th of December: they had two quarterns of rum, two pints of porter, and went away about half past four. The Mitre is situated on the opposite side of the Canal to the towing path; and when the prisoner and the woman went away, they turned towards London on that side of the canal, though there was no path-way, and it would take them at least a quarter of an hour to get to the first swing-bridge to cross over; there was a way to pass through a Mr. Fillingham's grounds, which would lead them the Harrow-road, and which he believed to be much nearer than the side of the canal: but then persons going that way got over the hedge, and he perceived, from the kitchen window where he was standing, the prisoner and the woman go beyond that spot. They had no clock in the house, but he had no doubt as to the time, from its being very near dark when they went away. On being questioned by one of the jury, he said, that besides the place to which he alluded for passing through Mr. Fillingham's ground, there was a gate about one hundred yards farther on, and to which the prisoner and woman had not got over when he lost sight of them.

Hannah Patience, the landlady of the Mitre tavern, recollected seeing the prisoner there on Sunday, Dec. 5, with

a woman and child: they had been there a good while before she saw them. She served them with a quartern of rum, and they had a pint of beer after it. They left the Mitre about half past four, as far as she could judge from the closing of the evening, for they had no clock.—She also recollected Sarah Daniels coming to buy a candle to take to her master: they were then gone, and as they were going out, the woman threw her gown over the child, saying, "This is the last time I shall come here."—In a minute or two the prisoner came back to look for the child's shoe, which could not be found, and then followed the woman. This witness took no particular notice of them, but thought she had seen them at her house two or three times before.

Sarah Daniels, aged nine years, was examined by the court as to her knowledge of the sanctity and solemnity of an oath, and being satisfied with her answers, she was sworn, and said, that she met a man following a woman with a child, walking by the canal, as she was going from Mr. Fillingham's to the Mitre; and, from the circumstance of its being near their time of drinking tea, she was sure that it could not want much of five o'clock.

Charles Weild, a shopmate of the prisoner, stated, that he met him a little after six o'clock, in Oxford-street, on the evening of Sunday the 5th of December, and that they went together to the Horse Grenadier public-house, where they continued till after eight.

John Atkins, a boatman employed on the canal, said, about eight o'clock, on the morning of Monday, he found a child's body, under the bow of the boat, at the distance of a mile from the Mitre; that in consequence of some directions which he received from Sir Richard Ford, he dragged the canal for three days, on the last of which, close under the window of the Mitre, he pulled up the woman's body, entangled in a loose bush. He had before then felt something heavy against the drag, at near 200 yards towards London from the house, but he could not ascertain whether that was the body or not.

Sir Richard Ford produced the examination which the prisoner signed at Bow-street Office, after being questioned

as to its being the truth, and cautioned as to the consequences it might produce. The account which the prisoner then gave was as follows:

"My wife and child came to me on Saturday se'nnight, about eight o'clock in the evening, and slept at my lodgings that night. The next morning, about nine or ten o'clock, I went out with them, and walked to the New Cut at Paddington: we went to the Mitre Tavern, and had some rum, some porter, and some bread and cheese. Before that we had stopped at a public-house near the first bridge, where we had some beef-steaks and some porter; after which she desired me to walk further on by the cut, so I went with her. I left her directly I came out of the Mitre Tavern, which was about three o'clock, and made the best of my way to Whetstone, in order to go to Barnet, to see two of my children, who are in the workhouse there. I went by the by-lanes, and was about an hour and an half walking from the Mitre to Whetstone. When I got there, I found it so dark that I would not go on to Barnet, but came home that night. I have not seen my wife nor child since; I have not inquired after them, but I meant to have done so to morrow evening, at Mrs. Hobart's.—I came home from Whetstone that evening between seven and eight o'clock; I saw no person in going to Whetstone; nor did I stop any where, at any public-house, or elsewhere, *except the Green Dragon, at Highgate, where I had a glass of rum.** My wife had a black gown on, and a black bonnet; the child had a straw bonnet, and white bed-gown. My wife was a little in liquor.

(Signed) "GEORGE FOSTER.

"Witness, Richard Ford,
December 27, 1802."

"Prisoner says, before he left the Mitre Tavern, on the said Sunday his wife asked the mistress of the inn whether

---

* The words in Italic were interlined, and the latter part added at the prisoner's request.

she could have a bed there that night, which the prisoner afterwards repeated; that she asked half a crown for one, which the prisoner and his wife thought too much, and the latter said she would go home to her mother."

The latter part of this was positively contradicted by the landlady, not a single word about a bed having passed between her and the deceased.

W. Garner, a shopmate of the prisoner, called upon him at the Brown Bear, in Bow-street, after he was taken into custody; to whom the prisoner said, he was as innocent of the charge as the child unborn; and that if any one would come forward to say, or swear, that he was at such a place on that night, he should be cleared immediately. The witness understood him to refer to the Green Dragon, at Highgate.

James Bushwell, a coach-maker, declared, that the prisoner was one of the most diligent men he had ever employed; and, from his having so very good an opinion of him, on hearing he was in custody, he went himself to see if he could render him any service; that upon his making that offer, the prisoner replied, that if it was not too much trouble, he would thank him to go to the Green Dragon, at Highgate, and inquire if a man was not there on the Sunday evening, who had a glass of rum, and asked after Mrs. Young: with which he complied; but, as the rules of evidence would not admit of Mr. Bushwell's giving the answer,

Elizabeth Southall, who keeps the Green Dragon, was called, who said she perfectly recollected such a circumstance, but she could not exactly say what Sunday it was; and, besides, the man who did so inquire, had a woman with an infant in her arms with him, and to whom the man turned round and said, That is Bradfield's mother.

The prisoner made no other defence than contradicting some parts of the evidence of the waiter at the Mitre.

George Hodgson, Esq. coroner of the county, and before whom an inquest on these bodies had been taken, said there was not the least mark of violence upon either the woman or

the child; of course, the report of the latter's arm being broken was false.

From being acquainted with the place, he was examined particularly as to the way through Mr. Fillingham's grounds, and which he affirmed to be far the nearest way to town. He could not undertake to say what the actual distance from the Mitre to Whetstone was, but he was sure it could not be less, even through the lanes and over the fields, than seven or eight miles, and about the same distance from Whetstone to town.

Four witnesses were called to the prisoner's character, who all agreed in his being an industrious and humane man.

The Chief Baron, in summing up to the Jury, said, that this was a case which almost entirely depended upon circumstances, but in some cases that might be best evidence, as it was certainly the most difficult, if not impossible, to fabricate; they, however, would deliberately judge how far they brought the charge home to the prisoner, so as not to leave a doubt on their minds before they pronounced him guilty. His lordship noticed some inconsistencies in the written paper which the prisoner had signed, observing, that in one part of the story the prisoner was contradicted by several witnesses; and that it was scarcely to be presumed that the prisoner could walk such a distance (from the Mitre to Whetstone) in so short a time. There were other traits of the story which were also extremely dubious. The learned Judge then went through the whole of the evidence, remarking thereon as he proceeded; and the jury, after some consultation, pronounced a verdict of guilty.

This was no sooner done, than the Recorder proceeded to pass sentence upon the prisoner; which was that he be hanged by the neck, next Monday morning, until he be dead, and that then his body be delivered to be anatomized, according to the law in that case made and provided.

This unfortunate malefactor was executed pursuant to his sentence, January, 18, 1803. At three minutes after eight he appeared on the platform before the debtor's door

in the Old Bailey, and after passing a short time in prayer with Dr. Ford, the Ordinary of Newgate, the cap was pulled over his eyes, when, the stage falling from under him, he was launched into eternity.

When he ascended the platform his air was dejected in the extreme; and the sorrow manifested in his countenance depicted the inward workings of a heart conscious of the heinous crime he had committed, and the justness of his sentence.

From the time of his condemnation to the moment of his dissolution, he had scarcely taken the smallest nourishment; which, operating with a tortured conscience, had so enfeebled him, that he was obliged to be supported from the prison to the gallows, being wholly incapable of ascending the staircase without assistance. Previous to his decease, he fully confessed his having perpetrated the horrid crime for which he suffered:—confessed that he had unhappily conceived a most inveterate hatred for his wife, that nothing could conquer, and determined him to rid himself and the world of a being he loathed:—acknowledged also, that he had taken her twice before to the Paddington Canal, with the wicked intent of drowning her, but that his resolution had failed him, and she had returned unhurt; and even at the awful moment of his confession, and the assurance of his approaching dissolution, he seemed to regret more the loss of his infant, than the destruction of the woman he had sworn to cherish and protect. He was questioned, as far as decency would permit, if jealousy had worked him to the horrid act; but he made no reply, except saying, that "he ought to die;" and dropped into a settled and fixed melancholy, which accompanied him to his last moments. He was a decent looking young man, and wore a brown great coat, buttoned over a red waistcoat, the same in which he was tried.

He died very easy; and after hanging the usual time, his body was cut down, and conveyed to a house not far distant, where it was subjected to the Galvanic process, by Professor Aldini, under the inspection of Mr. Keate, Mr. Carpue, and several other professional gentlemen. M. Aldini, who is the

nephew of the discoverer of this most interesting science, shewed the eminent and superior powers of Galvanism to be far beyond any other stimulant in nature. On the first application of the process to the face, the jaws of the deceased criminal began to quiver, and the adjoining muscles were horribly contorted, and one eye was actually opened. In the subsequent part of the process, the right hand was raised and clenched, and the legs and thighs were set in motion.* Mr. Pass, the beadle of the Surgeons' Company, having been officially present during this experiment, was so alarmed, that he died soon after his return home of the fright. Some of the uninformed bystanders thought that the wretched man was on the eve of being restored to life. This, however, was impossible, as several of his friends, who were under the scaffold, had violently pulled his legs, in order to put a more speedy termination to his sufferings. The experiment, in fact, was of a better use and tendency. Its object was to shew the excitability of the human frame, when this animal electricity is duly applied. In cases of drowning or suffocation, it promises to be of the utmost use, by reviving the action of the lungs, and thereby rekindling the expiring spark of vitality. In cases of apoplexy, or disorders of the head, it offers also most encouraging prospects for the benefit of mankind.

The professor, we understand, has made use of Galvanism also in several cases of insanity, and with complete success. It is the opinion of the first medical men, that this discovery, if rightly managed, and duly prosecuted,

---

* An experiment was made on a convict, named Patrick Redmond, who was hanged for a street-robbery, on the 24th of February, 1767, in order to bring him to life. It appears that the sufferer had hung twenty-eight minutes, when the mob rescued the body, and carried it to an appointed place, where a surgeon was in attendance to try the experiment *bronchotomy*, which is an incision in the wind-pipe, and which in less than six hours produced the desired effect. A collection was made for the poor fellow, and interest made to obtain his pardon. For it will be remembered, that the law says, the condemned shall *hang until he is dead:* consequently men, who, like Redmond, recovered, are liable to be again hanged up until they are dead.

cannot fail to be of great, and perhaps, as yet, unforeseen, utility.

ROBERT ASLETT.

Assistant-Cashier of the Bank of England, condemned to death for embezzling Public Property to a large amount, entrusted to his charge, and respited during his Majesty's pleasure, Nov. 18, 1804.

THE royal mercy which in many instances we have shewn refused to culprits who are generally thought proper objects of clemency, was, and still is extended to this great offender.

Mr. Aslett had been in the employ of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England for about twenty-five years, and had conducted himself faithfully and meritoriously until he had been induced, unfortunately, to speculate in the funds; and, in dereliction to that duty and fidelity which he owed to his employers, had substracted immense sums from the property entrusted to his care.

In the year 1799, having gone through the necessary and regular gradations, he was appointed one of the cashiers. It was a part of the business of the Bank to purchase Exchequer Bills, to supply the exigencies of government; the purchases were entrusted to the care of a very meritorious and excellent officer (Mr. A. Newland) but on account of that gentleman's growing infirmities, having been fifty-eight years in the service of the Bank, the management was left wholly under the care and direction of Mr. Aslett. These purchases were made of Mr. Goldsmid, by the means of Mr. Templeman, the broker. It was usual to make out a bill in the name of the person from whom they were purchased, which was delivered to Mr. Aslett, to examine and enter them in what is called the bought-book, and then gave orders to the cashiers to reimburse the broker. The bills were afterwards deposited in a strong

chest, kept in Mr. Newland's room, and when they had increased in bulk by subsequent purchases, they were selected by Mr. Aslett, tied up in large bundles, and carried to the parlour, that is to say, the room in which the Directors held their meetings, accompanied by one of the clerks, with the original book of entry, when the Directors in waiting received the envelope, and deposited them in the strong iron chest, which had three keys, and to which none but the Directors had access; nor could they be brought forth until the course of payment, unless by consent of at least two of the Directors. Therefore it was not possible for them to find their way into the hands of the public or the monied market, unless embezzled for that purpose.—On the 26th of February, 1803, Mr. Aslett, according to the practice, made up three envelopes of Exchequer Bills of £1000 each bill; the first containing bills to the amount of £100,000; the second £200,000; and the third £400,000; making in the whole £700,000: these were, or in fact ought to have been, carried into the parlour, and were signed as being received by two of the Directors, Messrs. Paget and Smith; one of these bundles, namely, that containing the £200,000 worth of bills, was withdrawn.

The confidence which the Governor and Company placed in Mr. Aslett had enabled him to conceal the transaction from the 26th of February, to the 9th of April; and it was next to an impossibility that it should be discovered, as no period of payment had arrived; but on that day, in consequence of an application made by Mr. Bish, the whole was discovered. On the 16th of March, Mr. Aslett went to that gentleman, and requested he would purchase for him £50,000 Consols, to which request no objection was made, provided he deposited the requisite securities. The fluctuation of the market at that time was six per cent. and Aslett, in order to cover any deficit, deposited with Mr. Bish three exchequer Bills, Nos. 341, 1060, 2694, and which he knew had been previously deposited in the Bank. From some circumstances, and from his general knowledge of the whole of the business of the funds, Mr. Bish suspected all was not right, and accordingly went to the Bank, where an

investigation took place, at which Mr. B. Watson, one of the Directors was present. Mr. Newland was sent for, and asked, whether any of the Exchequer Bills could, by possibility, get into the market again from the Bank? To which he answered in the negative, observing they were a dormant security. The same question was put to Mr. Aslett, and the same answer given by him. It was found necessary to tell him, that the bills in question, which could be proved to have been in the Bank, had found their way into the money-market; and at the same time it was observed, that he had made purchases to a large amount, of stock, with the bills: this was acknowledged by him; but he said he had done so for a friend named Hosier, residing at the west end of the town, and he declared they were not Bank property, nor to be found in the Bought Book. The Directors, however, were not satisfied on this point, and he was immediately secured. His trial was, however, postponed till July, as it occurred to those employed in the prosecution, that the Bills in question had been issued with an informality in them, not having the signature of the Auditor of the Exchequer. They were aware of the objections that might be taken, and Parliament not then being sitting, it was thought advisable to postpone the trial, lest it might create an alarm in the money-market. The fact was no sooner known, than a bill was brought into Parliament for remedying those defects, and to render the Bills valid.

On Friday, July 8, at half past ten o'clock in the morning, Mr. Aslett's trial commenced. Mr. Garrow, on the part of the prosecution, stated the facts above mentioned; but, when about to call witnesses to give evidence, Mr. Erskine insisted that the Exchequer Bills, which the prisoner stood charged with having stolen, were not good bills till the act of Parliament had made them so; and consequently that they were pieces of waste paper when stolen. The Chief Baron Macdonald, Mr. Justice Rooke, and Mr. Justice Lawrence concurred, that the present indictment could not be maintained; and the jury were accordingly desired to acquit the prisioner. He was afterwards tried on nine other indictments, the evidence being the same, Mr. Garrow

having applied to the court to detain him in custody, it being (he said) the intention of the Bank Directors to issue a civil process against him for £100,000 and upwards, the monies paid for the bills which he had converted to his own use.

Mr. Kirby at first hesitated to receive the prisoner, understanding he was acquitted; but was peremptorily desired by the court to take him back.

Mr. Aslett was dressed in a lightish brown coat, his hair full powdered. He appeared quite collected, but held his head down, never once looking up, except when the application was made to keep him in custody, when he expressed symptoms of great surprise, and looked very stedfastly at the court.

On Saturday, September 17, at a quarter before ten o'clock, Mr. Aslett was again brought to the bar of the Old Bailey, before Baron Chambre and Mr. Justice Le Blanc. The prisoner was attended by four or five gentlemen, who continued in the Dock during the whole time of the trial.

Three indictments were read, with two counts in each. The three indictments charged the prisoner with secreting and embezzling three notes. The first indictment was, for that he, being an officer or servant of the Governor and and Company of the Bank of England, had secreted, and embezzled a certain piece of paper, partly written and partly printed, being No. 835, purporting to be of the value of £500; the second, No. 2694, for £1000; and the third, No. 6061, for £1000. One count in each stated them as securities of the said Governor and Co. and the other as effects belonging to the said Governor and Co. There were other counts diversifying the statement of the property in other forms, such as were deemed to come within the law.

A jury was after some time empannelled, Mr. Aslett's counsel having challenged fifteen, eleven having been absent, and one who was summoned having died on Friday morning.

Mr. Giles, the junior counsel for the prosecution, opened the case.

Mr. Garrow then stated it at considerable length to the jury. There was one point, to which he called the particular attention of the Court and Jury, and that was that the gentleman had been tried before, and acquitted of the charge of purloining Exchequer Bills to an immense amount; as it was then proved to the satisfaction of the learned judges on the bench, for whom he entertained the highest respect, that they were not actually such as might in law be termed Exchequer Bills, in consequence of their not having been signed as the act directs. The present indictments, however, stated them as papers *purporting* to be Exchequer Bills, which they evidently were on the face of them, and subdivided the charge, by stating them one time as securities, and at another time as effects belonging to the Company. This he had no doubt that the jury would be convinced of upon hearing them read; and it was an important duty which the Bank owed to the public, that they should not suffer so great a delinquent to escape the justice of the country in consequence of any want of exertion on their part.

Mr. Erskine, in behalf of the prisoner, delivered a most animated address to the jury. He stated, that the former indictments against the gentleman at the bar had been objected to on grounds which were approved of by the bench of learned judges who then sat upon the bench.—He was now brought up again to be tried for exactly the same offence, though differently stated; and he thought that the present proceeding was liable to the same objections which were then admitted to be valid by the bench; but he should oppose it on much stronger grounds. He then stated the exception which had been taken to the legality of Mr. Jenning's signature, in the place of that of Lord Grenville, as Auditor of the Exchequer. That the same illegality in a criminal sense existed with respect to all bills issued at that time from the Exchequer was manifest from the circumstance of the legislature having found it necessary to pass an act expressly for the purpose of making them legal in a civil view; and that act had a most humane proviso, which, declared, in plain terms, that the act was to

be considered to make Exchequer Bills issued at that time valid only in a view, and was not to have any retrospective view to criminal offence committed before the passing of that act. He then read the proviso in the act. The learned gentleman stated, that as securities, they were nothing in law, for a person, at the time of their being passed, could not recover at law; he was not therefore legally secured by the possession of such bills. As to the idea of calling them effects, he considered that, though the legislature had thought proper to pass an act for the protection of that Company above all others, by passing what is generally termed the Bank Act, in consequence of the immense magnitude of that concern, yet effects must obviously mean the same, as in a case of petty larceny would be considered as effects, that is something intrinsically valuable in themselves, without taking in or mixing in the mind, the idea of their professed or avowed value. If that was not the case, a clerk who took away a loose half sheet of paper lying about the office, or a pen that was worn to the stump, came within the limits of the act, and would be liable to a prosecution for felony. If he did not know the highly respectable character which that Company supported, and the very great ability by which they were counselled, he should be induced to say, that the prosecution of the gentleman at the bar a second time, for exactly the same offence of which he had been before acquitted by law, was vexatious; and he should declare, not only as a lawyer, but as a man, that they were rather inclined to be severe towards the prisoner, than that they should be thought in the least to relax from their duty, or from an idea of justice to the public. The articles stated in the indictments must either be really and *bonâ fide* Exchequer Bills, or else they were no securities; they were no effects in law; they were no more than pieces of waste paper, for the embezzlement of which he had never known a prosecution to be sustained at law. The generosity of government, or the justice of the country, could not at that time pay a single farthing for them; the strings of the national purse were only to be drawn by the consent of the legislature, and at that time

there was no such consent obtained; the articles in the indictment were at that time nothing but so many pieces of waste, printed, and written paper, which had not been called into existence as any thing of valuable property, as any effects belonging to the Bank which had obtained the sanction of Parliament; they had not been animated by the breath of the legislature. The learned gentleman then quoted several cases from the reports of the most eminent law-writers, stating that chattels or effects must be something valuable intrinsically in themselves; and said that it was his firm belief that the learned judges at present on the bench would deliver a charge similar in effect to that which had already been delivered by the learned judges sitting on that bench at the time of Mr. Aslett's former trial: he believed that they would find themselves in the same situation, and instruct the jury to find a verdict for the acquittal of that gentleman without hearing any evidence upon the case; as in his opinion it was not such as could be supported in law.

Mr. Serjeant Best followed on the same side. He also adverted to the passing of the act last session to make the Exchequer Bills then passed valid, and from thence inferred that it was an implied proof of the idea which the legislature entertained that they were otherwise of no value. He also read a clause in the Bank Act with respect to articles secreted or embezzled by any officer or servant of the Bank, which enumerated "bullion, money, or other effects;" and contended, that it was such an association of ideas as must naturally lead any man to consider the Company in which those words were found; the act must certainly mean other effects *ejusdem generis*.—If a person was to pay for base metal as gold, that payment was not sufficient to constitute its value, nor make it be considered as gold; he therefore considered that his client was entitled to acquittal, as nothing valuable had been taken, notwithstanding it might be asserted that the bank had paid for them as such.

Mr. Garrow was rising to reply, when,

Mr. Justice Le Blanc observed, that he did not think that the present was that clear case upon which he could

immediately decide. There might be found, perhaps, a difference in the definition of a case of larceny and that of felony. At present he thought it most advisable that the Court should proceed into a hearing of the evidence to be adduced, and reserve the disputed point of law for the opinion of all the judges.

Mr. Robert Best, secretary of the Bank, was called first in evidence. He stated, that Mr. Aslett was engaged as a clerk in the Bank on the 19th of March, 1778; on the 19th of September, 1793, he was appointed assistant to Mr. Abraham Newland; and on the 17th of January, 1799, he was raised to the situation of cashier to the Governor and Company of the Bank of England. Mr. Aslett had during the whole of that time conducted himself with the utmost integrity and respectability.

Mr. Abraham Newland, the principal cashier, deposed, that Mr. Aslett or himself always signed the order for payment of the bought Exchequer Bills: an entry was regularly made in the bought-book by the one or other of them; they were then given in to the Directors in the parlour, where they were put into a strong closet, and could not possibly get out again into the market unless by fraud. It was frequently some weeks, he said, before they were delivered in by the Cashiers, which was sometimes done by Mr. Aslett, and other times by himself. On the 25th of February, the day stated in the indictment, Mr. Aslett had given the bills in. He also bore most honourable testimony to the good character of the prisoner, and stated the high estimation in which he was held by the Directors.

Mr. Abraham Goldsmid swore, that on the 3d of December, 1802, his house had sold 85,000l. in Exchequer Bills to the Bank of England, and proved that Mr. Aslett's signature was subscribed to the order for payment.

Mr. Benjamin Kiddell generally made out the order for payment, and a bill of parcels to correspond; he then took them to Mr. Aslett to sign. He swore to Mr. Aslett's handwriting.

Several witnesses proved, that various Exchequer Bills outstanding in the market, had been bought up by the

Bank, particularly those which were in the hands of Messrs. Cole, Templeman, and Co. to the amount of 31,985l. 2s. 2d. which were bought on the 11th of December, 1802, and the money paid for them by the Bank of England.

Mr. William Horton, a hosier in Newgate-street, about the latter end of March, or beginning of April, had lent Mr. Aslett 11,000l. Consols, for which he received a deposit of Exchequer Bills, a list of which he delivered into court, and swore to its correctness. Among the numbers was one of those stated in the indictment.

Mr. Chambers, a merchant in Dove-court, St. Swithin's-lane, had received a deposit of 10,000l. on the 16th of March; 16,000l. on the 17th ditto; and 17,000l. on the 9th of April, all in Exchequer Bills, to secure a loan of Consols.

Mr. James Vansummer, a broker, had borrowed 15,000l. for the prisoner, of the houses of Messrs. Down and Co. and Messrs. Chambers and Co. for which he got a deposit of Exchequer Bills to the amount of 30,000l.

Mr. T. Bish, stock-broker and lottery-office keeper, deposed, that the prisoner came to his house, on the 15th of March, and desired him to purchase 50,000l. consols for him. Mr. B. endeavoured to dissuade him from making such a hazardous enterprise, as it was very probable that the funds would be liable to very great fluctuation. Mr. A. he said, then asked him, how much would be the probable fluctuation; and the witness told him probably five or six per cent. Mr. Aslett persisted in his disposition to purchase, and deposited with the witness three Exchequer Bills, of 1000l. each. He bought the stock on account for the next opening, three times over; but from some suspicion arising in his mind as to the propriety of such bills being in the market, he waited on some of the Directors, and communicated his suspicion. Upon this an inquiry was instituted, and Mr. Aslett was taken into custody.

The numbers of the various bills were compared with the bought-book; when it was found that they had been already bought in by the Bank, and that they were entered as delivered on the 26th of February, in an envelope, which was indorsed as containing 200,000l.

Mr. John Puget, a Director, deposed, that he and Mr. Smith, another Director, attended in the parlour on the above day, for the purpose of receiving the bought up bills. Mr. Aslett had that day delivered in four parcels, the first of which was to the amount of 200,000l. of the supply of 1802. The parcel was supposed to be placed in the strong closet, immediately after the witness had signed the entry; but had it been really placed there, he did not suppose that they could possibly find their way into the market again, as that closet was never opened but in the presence of two Directors, and had three locks.

Mr. Winthrop, the Deputy Governor, stated the particulars of Mr. Bish's communication, and the circumstance of Mr. Aslett having been taxed with being concerned in the fraud. At first he hesitated; he then said, that he had got them from a Mr. Hosier; which not proving satisfactory, he was committed by Mr. Alderman Watson. The bills were entered in the bought-book as bought up.

Mr. Alderman Watson corroborated the statement of the last witness; and mentioned, that at the time of the private examination of Mr. Aslett, he had acquainted him that he need not answer any question that might tend to criminate himself.

Mr. Boddington, of the cash-office, proved the circumstance of Mr. Aslett's desk having been broke open on the 11th of April, when it was found to contain an envelope marked as 200,000l. in bills, of the supply of 1802, and 109 bills to the amount of 16,000l. which were given to the Directors then in the parlour.

Mr. Hase proved, that the contents of the strong closet was 200,000l. less than in the entries in the bought-book.

The prisoner being called on for his defence, said, that he trusted entirely to his counsel.

Mr. Erskine observed to the court, that he had a host of witnesses to produce to the character of his client; but that on account of the honourable testimony which his learned friend, Mr. Garrow, and several of the principal witnesses, had given of the very high and respectable character which Mr. Aslett had supported for such a number of years up to the

time mentioned in the indictment, he should think it unnecessary to take up the time of the court, by hearing the evidence which he had it in his power to bring.

Mr. Justice Le Blanc delivered a most minute and able charge, going through the different evidence in the most clear and correct manner, and informing the jury that they were only for the present to consider whether the prisoner had been proved to have secreted or embezzled the articles stated in the indictment. If they were of opinion that he had, they were bound to find the prisoner guilty. If there was any doubt upon their mind, whether he might not have obtained possession of them by committing a burglary, or in any other manner than that stated in the indictment, they would find him not guilty.

The jury consulted together for about five minutes, and then returned the prisoner "Guilty."

The Court was exceedingly crowded, and the trial lasted till six o'clock.

Mr. Aslett betrayed neither a symptom of fear, nor levity, but seemed to pay the greatest attention to every thing that passed, and conducted himself with a becoming firmness throughout the whole of the trial. When the verdict was pronounced, there was a great buz in the Court: Mr. Aslett waited for about two minutes, then bowed to the Court, and withdrew, accompanied by his friends.

February 16, 1804, Mr. Aslett was brought to the bar to receive his sentence, when Mr. Baron Hothan addressed him as follows:

"Robert Aslett, you were tried and convicted in this Court, in the September sessions, 1803, for embezzling effects belonging to the Governor and Company of the Bank of England, you being an officer and servant of that Bank, and, as such, entrusted with their property. The indictment stated, in the first count, that you, being in the employment of the said Bank, and being entrusted with a certain paper, partly printed, and partly written, commonly called an Exchequer Bill, purporting to be for £500, did feloniously secret and embezzle the same, it being the property of the said Company, and remaining unpaid and unsatisfied to

them as holders thereof. The indictment then set forth two other bills, each for 1000l. which you, as an officer and servant of the Governor and Company aforesaid, did also secrete, embezzle, and run away with. You have thus been charged in the indictment, with having feloniously secreted and embezzled property belonging to the Governor and Company of the Bank of England, to the amount of 2,500l. and that against the statute and king's peace. There were other counts in the indictment, which did not state the paper to be of any value; but shewing that the Governor and Company had, on the credit and security of such pieces of paper, advanced a certain sum of money, which was then unpaid and unsatisfied to the Bank. Other counts again called these pieces of paper securities, instead of money or effects. It was argued by your counsel, that those bills were not valid or legal bills, having been signed by a person not properly authorized by Lord Grenville, though they had been issued as good, and paid as such. On this indictment you have been lawfully convicted by a jury of your countrymen, but judgment has been suspended till the opinion of the twelve judges of England was taken on this important case, in order to ascertain whether these bills were good, according to the statute 15 Geo. II. Eleven of these judges were of opinion, that some of the objections, so ably argued by your counsel, should be sustained: they have since held various conferences, which produced various different opinions; and it is now my duty to communicate to you the result of their investigation. Several points were urged in your favour, such as, supposing that the offence with which you have been charged was of such a description as to fall within the act of 15 Geo. II. c. 13. you stood acquitted by the statute passed in the reign of Geo. III. which operated as a repeal of the former. It is, however, unnecessary for me now to enlarge upon this topic, or to state the reasons which occasioned all of the judges, ultimately to be of a different opinion. I am authorised by them to say, that they entertain no doubt upon the subject; and that they all concur in opinion, that nothing is contained in the second act which can operate as a repeal of the first act.

The only question which then remained for their consideration was, whether or not these bills fell within the meaning of the statute 15 Geo. II. and could be denominated effects according to that act. On this point, indeed, the judges were not unanimous, but the majority are of opinion, that they are effects and securities within the true meaning of the act. In order to make the matter more intelligible, I shall read to you the clause of that act to which I particularly allude :—

"Be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, that if any officer or servant of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England, be entrusted with any note, bill, dividend, warrant, bond, deed, or other security or effects, belonging to the said company, or having any such security from any other person lodged with the said company, shall secrete, embezzle, or run away with any such note, &c. every officer or servant so offending shall suffer," as the act directs. The great object of the legislature was to add security and administer protection to the Bank of England. The immense national concerns with which it was and still is entrusted, called upon the legislature for particular provisions in its favour. The principles of legislation must now be applied to the object then under contemplation ; and the view we take of any code of laws must be more comprehensive when it concerns so materially such a large incorporated body, than when it only relates to private individuals. Considering this law then in the enlarged and liberal view on which it was framed by the legislature (at the same time that all the judges disclaim any wish to strain any part of it where it is so penal,) the recollection of the enormous weight of Exchequer Bills, in which the public were so deeply and materially concerned, cannot fail to occur to every mind. That these bills had become the fair and valuable property of the Bank was allowed on all hands, but still it was argued that they were not such securities as fell within the true meaning of the Act of Parliament, because they were not of any positive or intrinsic value. Now, whatever shall be deposited with the Bank, was expressly guarded by the words of the act ; and although the bills in question be

of no descriptive legal value, yet they carry about them such a consequence at least as may make their preservation of the utmost importance to the Bank. In that view, therefore, they surely have their value. The very Exchequer Bills which they would be, were the defects removed, the government of the country were called on to pay, in as much as they have been issued under the authority of parliament. They were given as valid bills, and the holders of them have as strong a claim, I will not say upon the honour only, but even upon the justice and equity of parliament, for the payment of them, as if they had been perfectly correct in every particular, and in all their parts.—They are at least valuable papers, whatever they may be called, and the holders of them have them as such, having paid for them the value which they respectively import. They are therefore to be included in the true meaning of the word securities, which may be in the end available to any person who may be possessed of them. Nor are they less to be deemed included under the meaning of the word effects, which is confined to no particular species of property, but may consist either of specie or any other article whatever. It was this that the legislature had in view when the act was passed; for, be they effects, or securities, or both of them, they import value upon the face of them. The embezzling or secreting of such effects or securities, constituting part of the property of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England, is not (by the act alluded to) made larceny, but it is created a felony, which does away the necessity of any value being ascertained. But it must be acknowledged, that these bills of themselves are such a species of security, or effects, as no man would hesitate about giving the value which appears on the face of them. They are such effects or securities, that if a bankrupt had got value for them, he would be bound by law to account to his creditors for them, as a part of his just debt. An executor, who found such bills in the possession of his testator, would be bound to pay a tax for them to government, as making part of that property which might fall into his hands; and he would be liable to punishment were he to

destroy them. But it was argued, that the words were to be construed in a manner that they would not ascribe value to things which were perfectly nugatory in themselves, as pieces of waste paper, &c. The judges, however, have not found themselves driven to that extreme length in construing the Act of Parliament, which they have so minutely considered. Their judgment only goes to the express words of the act itself, referring to such securities or effects only as are entrusted to the officers or servants of the Bank. These bills, therefore, being of such a nature, as that government were bound to correct all deficiencies or irregularities, and pay the amount to the Bank, who had purchased them for a valuable consideration, the majority of the judges are of opinion, that they are really the effects and securities of the Bank, falling under the construction of the Act 15th Geo. II. and that their embezzlement by you, being an officer and servant of that company, subjects you, in point of law, to conviction upon the indictment on which you was found guilty.

Mr. Aslett bowed respectfully to the Court; and, as he expressed but little agitation on hearing the unfavourable decision of the twelve judges, it was supposed he must have been previously prepared for the fatal opinion.

On the Monday following, February 20, 1804, this unfortunate man received sentence of death, and appeared wretchedly dejected. When he was asked, what he had to say why judgment of death should not be passed upon him? he answered, "Nothing; I resign myself to my fate." He never looked up the whole time the Recorder was addressing him, and left the Court under great perturbation of mind. A report of his case was not made to the King by the Recorder till November 18th, when he was respited during His Majesty's pleasure, and still remains a prisoner in Newgate.

END OF VOL. I.

INDEX.

VOL. I.

PAGE.

ARAM Eugene, Murderer .... death 105
Ayliffe John, Esq. Forgery .... death 141
Avershaw L. J. Murderer .... death 249
Alcock William, Murderer .... death 433
Aslett Robert, Embezzlement .... imprisoament 668

B

Branch Elizabeth, and Mary, Murderers .... death 56
Baker William, Forgery .... death 195
Burridge William, Horse-stealer .... death 207
Blandy Mary, Parricide .... death 306
Brinsden Matthias, Murderer .... death 315
Barrington George, Pick-pocket .... transported 355
Brian J. H. Incendiary .... death 373
Burnworth Edward, &c. Murderers and Robbers .... death 379
Brown Nichol, Murderer .... death 539
Berry John, &c. Conspirators .... pillory 543
Brownrigg, Elizabeth, Murderer .... death 574
Bolland James, Forgery .... death 590
Brodie James, a blind man, Murderer .... death 658

C

Coleman Richard (innocent) .... death 49
Colley Thomas, Murderer .... death 257
Carr John, Forgery .... death 302
Cook Henry, Murderer and Horse-stealer .... death 488
Cameron Dr. A. High Treason .... death 533
Cannicott William, Murderer .... death 548
Campbell Mungo, Murderer .... death 583
Caddell G. Murderer .... death 328

D

Despard E. M. Traitor .... death 65
Drew Charles, Parricide .... death 86

PAGE.

Davies, Mail-robber .... death 542
Dodd Dr. William, Forgery .... death 607
Donellan John, Esq. Murderer. .... death 620

E

Emmett R. Traitor .... death 211
Edmondson Mary, Murderer ... . death 283

F

Field William, Highwayman .... death 102
Ferrers Lawrence, Earl, Murderer .... death 144
Ferguson Richard, Highwayman .... death 197
Farmery William, Murderer .... death 606
Foster George, Murderer .... death 659

G

Gow John, Pirate .... death 295
Gordon William, Highwayman .... death 435
Gardell Theodore, Murderer .... death 534

H

Horne W. A. Esq. Murderer .... death 5
Hill James, Incendiary. .... death 43
Hunter Rev. Thomas, Murderer .... death 60
Hawke W. Highwayman .... death 90
Hawkins J. and G Simpson, Highwaymen .... death 93
Housmart L. Murderer .... death 318
Hayes Catherine, Traitoress .... death 394
Hall John, Housebreaker .... death 376
Hadfield James, for shooting at his Majesty .... imprisonment 655

I

Innes John, Forger .... death 281

J

Johnson W. and J. Housden, Murderers .... death 191
Johnson C. and J. Stockdale, Murderers .... death 299

L

Lloyd Sarah, Accessary .... death 153
Lowen Roger, Murderer .... death 371
Langley Gilbert, Robber .... transported 473

M

Matthews John, Traitor .... death 40
M'Cloud Peter, Housebreaker .... death 118

PAGE.

Metyard Sarah, and Sarah Morgan, Murderers .... death 121
M'Kean James, Murderer .... death 187
Maclane James, Highwayman .... death 160
Mason Elizabeth, Murderer .... death 209
M'Naughton John, Esq. Murderer .... death 261
M'Kinlie Peter, &c. Pirates .... death 267

N

Newington William, Forger .... death 253

O

O'Coigley James, Traitor .... death 318
Oneby John, Esq. Murderer .... death 389

P

Price Charles, Forger .... suicide 33
Poulter John, Highwayman .... death 129
Page William, Highwayman .... death 169
Parker R. Mutineer .... death 181
Phipoe M. T. Murderer .... death 202
Perreau R. and D. Forgery .... death 234
Powis Joseph, Housebreaker .... death 419
Porteous Captain John, Murderer, killed by the Mob 487
Parsons W. Esq. returning from transportation .... death 504

Q

Quin Thomas, &c. Thieves .... death 519

R

Rann John, Highwayman .... death 223
Rice John, Forgery .... death 330
Richardson John, and Richard Coyle, Piracy and Murder death 445

S

Sheppard J. Housebreaker .... death 12
Semple Major, &c. Felons .... transported 323
Smith John, Robber .... half-hanged 369
Shelton William, Robber .... death 413
Smythee Captain Henry, Murderer .... death 496

T

Turpin Richard, Horse-stealer .... death 266
Tapner Benjamin, &c. &c. Murderers .... death 285
Terry John, and Joseph Heald, Murderers .... death 652

V

Vicars John, Murderer .... death 499

PAGE.

W

Wall Joseph, Murderer .... death 26
Ward William, Manslaughter .... fined and imprisoned 629
Watt Robert, &c. High Treason .... death 633
Wilford Thomas, Murderer .... death 526
Whale Ann, Murderer .... death 529
Williams Ann, Murderer .... death 532

Y

Young Mary, Thief .... death 459

R. DOWSON, PRINTER, NOTTINGHAM.

FEB 19 1936

NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

PURCHASED FROM FUND BEQUEATHED

JANE DUGDALE

IN MEMORY OF HER BROTHER

RICHARD L. DUGDA